



TIP-X DC Forum Recap

Standards, Licensing & Global Competition in Capital Markets
May 2026 | U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, D.C.

The Forum

On May 14, 2026, Tech+IP hosted the inaugural TIP-X Forum at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C., bringing together a select group of over 30 experts in patent policy, standards, licensing, and capital markets for a focused, half-day exchange.

The forum featured three expert panels exploring what drives standards innovation, the gap between SEP licensing narratives and real-world market evidence, and the growing role of standards as a tool of industrial and geopolitical strategy. The morning concluded with a direct report-out from Capitol Hill engagements that took place the day prior.

What We Heard

Five key themes emerged consistently across panels and discussions:

1. **Patents as Investment Infrastructure:** Strong, predictable IP rights are a condition for capital formation, R&D investment, and standards participation. The conversation needs to shift from patents as legal rights to patents as economic infrastructure.
2. **Standards Are Competitiveness Policy:** Standards are not technical documents. They are foundational infrastructure for U.S. leadership in connectivity, AI, automotive, IoT, and the markets of tomorrow. Standards policy is innovation policy.
3. **Licensing Needs a Better Public Narrative:** Market-based licensing supports innovation, reduces transaction costs, and returns capital to inventors and investors. Distinguishing serious licensing activity from abusive conduct is essential.
4. **Enforcement Credibility Drives Investment:** Without a credible prospect of enforcement, licensing negotiations break down and efficient



infringement becomes more attractive. A functioning remedies framework is central to a healthy innovation ecosystem.

5. **Advocacy Must Be Targeted, Data-Driven, and Bipartisan** — Generic patent advocacy is no longer sufficient. The path forward is a refined message built around investment, jobs, national security, and the economic consequences of weakening U.S. IP rights.

Investment-Driven Innovation

Innovation requires capital at every stage: R&D, patenting, standards participation, implementation, licensing, and reinvestment. Predictable IP rights and credible remedies are not abstract legal principles; they are the conditions that make that investment model work. Tech+IP is committed to being the leading market-informed voice that connects patent rights, standards, licensing, and remedies to real investment outcomes. This is done through TIP-X and our policy priority coordination efforts.

TIP-X is a Tech+IP forum designed to convene leading experts across patent law, standards bodies, capital markets, and policy for substantive, off-the-record dialogue. TIP-X's goal is to surface the ideas and evidence that matter to the people that matter.

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