



Creativity and innovation are fundamental elements of every sustainable economic system. New ideas (and products), if properly nurtured, can bring new prosperity to individuals, businesses, and communities. A steady stream of discoveries is as valuable a resource as any mineral and should be protected with the same vigor. When the Founding Fathers set forth the framework for the government of the United States of America they thought highly enough of creativity and innovation to grant The Congress power to protect its source and ensure its flow for future generations.

Intellectual Property is the phrase coined to describe property that is separate from its physical existence. It is the image rather than the paint and canvas of a painting. It is the story rather than the paper and ink of a book. It is the pattern rather than the strings and fibers of a textile. And it is the shape rather than the wood and cloth of a sofa.

Owners of intellectual property enjoy legal rights similar to those of the owners of real property. Theft of intellectual property is as serious a crime as the theft of real property. The Congress has given inventors of intellectual property specific legal protection that includes; copyrights, utility and design patents, trademarks and trade dress. In case after case, where the inventor has followed the prescribed registration procedure, the Courts have upheld intellectual property protection, enforced penalties and awarded substantial damages for infringement by others.

How do I join FDI?

Contact the Secretary of the Foundation for an application form or download it from our website. Submit the completed form and a small portfolio showing your most creative products, ads and awards to the Secretary. All membership applications are considered at one of our four quarterly meetings. Membership is open to all those who support original design; however, each application must receive a majority approval. Notifications are made by mail.

What is the cost of Membership?

- Business with annual sales over \$5,000,000 pay \$1,000.00 per year.
- Business with annual sales under \$5,000,000 pay \$500.00 per year.

Affiliated Memberships are available only to: design professionals, students and educators, members of the media, and design associations for \$100 per year for a company and \$50 per year for an individual.



Contact Information

Voicemail:

New York 212-642-8186
 Los Angeles 310-535-3989
 San Francisco 650-326-1867

Email:

DesignIntegrity@msn.com

Website:

www.ffdi.org



"[The Congress shall have power] To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;"

Constitution of the United States of America; Article I; Section 8

www.ffdi.org

Mission Statement

The Foundation For Design Integrity honors those who conceive, design, engineer, and develop innovative new products for the Interior Design and Architectural Community and their clients. It seeks to educate and inform the industry, and the public, about the importance of original design. It seeks to foster integrity in the specification and procurement of interior and architectural products. It seeks to strengthen protective legislation both domestically and internationally. And it seeks to set standards, protect original design and serve as the voice of those in the industry who wish to promote original design.

What is the Foundation For Design Integrity?

The Foundation For Design Integrity (FDI) was formed in the summer of 1994 by Sally Sirkin Lewis of J. Robert Scott, Inc., Brad Stewart of Bradford Stewart & Company, and Michael Sorrentino of Donghia Furniture/Textiles Ltd. The growing problem of knock-offs in the design industry led the three to create FDI as a means to fight this unethical practice and to promote original design. News of FDI spread quickly, and soon an additional twenty-five leading design companies eagerly joined as Founding Members. They agreed to work together toward the following goals:

- To promote awareness within the industry about the importance of protecting original design.
- To assist members in preventing the unlicensed duplication of their proprietary product designs.
- To move government to enact stronger legislation to protect original design both domestically and internationally.

To date, over one hundred and fifty members have joined ranks with the original Founding Members. Memberships are available to: product designers, manufacturers, showroom operators, the media, design associations, students and educators, design professionals such as architects and interior designers and all those who share an interest in promoting original design.

How does FDI accomplish its goals?

The Awareness Program allows companies and individuals that become members of FDI to have the honor of displaying the FDI logo to signify their commitment to original design and their participation in the Foundation. FDI assists its members in circulating to the industry news releases about settlements and judgments made in lawsuits concerning intellectual property infringements.

The Education Program brings industry leaders and experts on intellectual property law together with members of the community in seminars, public forums and round table discussions. FDI has participated in many educational events such as NeoCon, NeoCon West, NeoCon South, WestWeek, San Francisco Winter and Summer Markets, Lightfair, Designer's Saturday, Design.y.c., and at the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt Museum.

The Protection Program works closely with noted attorney Susan E. Farley, Esq., of Heslin, Rothenberg, Farley and Mesiti, P.C. to bring the most current information on judicial and legislative developments about intellectual property law to the members in a timely manner. FDI members also have exclusive access to a Patent Initiative that makes obtaining patents easier and more affordable.

FDI maintains an Internet website at www.ffdi.org, moderates a group email system (F4DI@yahoogroups.com) and distributes: a Member's Manual, Quarterly Meeting Notes and a newsletter to its members.