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SIIA Applauds Appointment of U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator

WASHINGTON, DC (September 25, 2009) – Following President Barack Obama's announcement today of his intent to nominate **Victoria A. Espinel** as U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator at the Office of Management and Budget, SIIA President Ken Wasch issued the following statement:

"SIIA applauds President Obama for his appointment of Victoria A. Espinel, as U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator. She brings a deep experience in negotiations with other governments, as well as a strong record of working with all the key agencies that are on the front lines of enforcing IP laws.

"SIIA urges her prompt confirmation and looks forward to working with her to protect and defend the software and digital content industries."

Background

The position of Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC), which was often referred to in the media s the "IP Czar", was established in the "Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights Act of 2008" (Public Law 110-403; S. 3325), signed into law last year. The position will reside in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Title III of the Act (titled "Coordination and Strategic Planning of Federal Effort Against Counterfeiting and Infringement") provides that the IPEC will chair an interagency intellectual property enforcement advisory committee. Members of the advisory committee will be drawn from the US Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), Copyright Office, USTR, and FDA among others. The Act charges the advisory committee to develop a Joint Strategic Plan, to be submitted Congress no later than October 13, 2009. It is not expected that Ms. Espinel will be confirmed by that time, and the report can be expected to be delayed accordingly.

About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 500 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit www.siia.net.

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