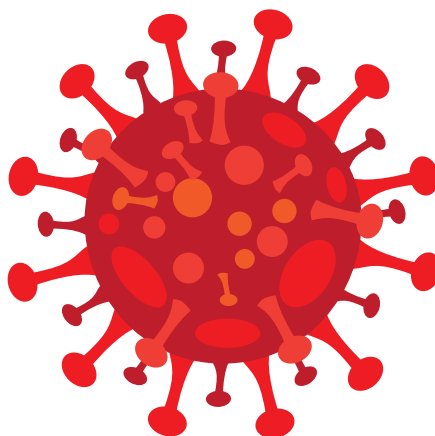


**THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL FALL LECTURE**

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**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
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**COVID - 19**

**ANATOMY OF AN IP MOVEMENT:  
THE OPEN COVID PLEDGE**

**JORGE L. CONTRERAS**

Professor of Law  
The University of Utah  
S.J. Quinney College of Law

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

**VIRTUAL EVENT**

Lecture - 6:00 P.M.  
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**Jorge L. Contreras**, Professor of Law at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, teaches in the areas of intellectual property law, property law, and genetics and the law.

Professor Contreras's current research focuses, among other things, on the development of technical standards and the use and dissemination of data generated by large-scale scientific research projects. He has edited six books and published more than 100 scholarly articles and book chapters. His published work has appeared in scientific, legal and policy journals including *Science*, *Nature*, *NYU Law Review*, *Georgetown Law Journal*, *North Carolina Law Review*, *Florida State Law Review*, *American University Law Review*, *Harvard Journal of Law and Technology*, *Berkeley Technology Law Journal*, *Antitrust Law Journal*, and *Utah Law Review*. He has been quoted by numerous media outlets including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Economist*, *Bloomberg*, *Washington Post*, *Korea Times* and has been featured on NPR, PRI and BBC radio shows and a range of podcasts and online news programs.

**Selected Publications Include:** *A Product of Nature: the Unlikely Case that Ended Gene Patenting in America*, ALGONQUIN (forthcoming 2021); *Injunctions in Patent Law: Trans-Atlantic Dialogues on Flexibility and Tailoring*, Cambridge Univ. Press (forthcoming 2021) (with Martin Husovec); *Utah Real Property Law*, State Bar of Utah (forthcoming 2020) (with David A. Thomas, James H. Backman & Brigham Daniels); CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF TECHNICAL STANDARDIZATION LAW: VOL. 2 - COPYRIGHT, TRADEMARK, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, Cambridge Univ. Press (2019).

## **Anatomy of an IP Movement: The Open COVID Pledge**

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, ten scientists, engineers and lawyers in the U.S. and UK created a legal platform for sharing patent and copyright rights in response to the pandemic. Their goal was to help overcome bottlenecks in the development, manufacture and distribution of COVID-critical technologies. The resulting Open COVID Pledge ([opencovidpledge.org](https://opencovidpledge.org)) went live in April, 2020, and has attracted pledges from a number of large technology companies including Intel, IBM, Microsoft, Amazon, Uber, AT&T and Facebook as well as two national laboratories and several small companies. The organizers estimated that within a few months, more than 250,000 patents and other IP rights were pledged to the cause. Yet notably absent from this effort were any biotechnology or pharmaceutical firms or major universities conducting biomedical research. This lecture will describe the genesis, design and implementation of the Open COVID Pledge, placing it within the larger context of intellectually property rights sharing movements in the software, environmental and health areas. This includes assessing the successes and potential shortcomings of the Open COVID Pledge given its role in the broader fight against COVID-19 and its potential as a model for sharing IPR in response to future crises.

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