



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
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IViR LECTURE SERIES

Balancing Trademark and Free Speech Rights in Trademark Registration and Enforcement Laws

by **Prof. Lisa Ramsey**
(University of San Diego)

4 April
2025

REC A5.24



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Trademark laws are government regulations of language, designs, and other types of expression used to communicate about the source of goods or services. Trademarks are also used by their owners and others to provide information about a product's qualities, express ideas and opinions, and decorate products and their packaging.

In this presentation, I argue that the free expression right in the United States, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries imposes limits on what subject matter can qualify as a trademark. The free speech right should not just be invoked to limit the scope of trademark rights or remedies, or to strike down trademark registration laws that discriminate based on viewpoint.



Prof. Lisa Ramsey

Lisa P. Ramsey is a Professor of Law at the University of San Diego School of Law, where she teaches and writes in the intellectual property law area.

Practical details:

Date: 4 April 2025

Time: 15:30 - 16:45
CET (Amsterdam)

Place: REC A5.24
(Nieuwe
Achtergracht 166,
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