


**GigaLaw's**

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**Domain  
Dispute  
Digest**



First Quarter, 2020

# What is GigaLaw's Domain Dispute Digest – and Why Now?



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Welcome to the first issue of GigaLaw's Domain Dispute Digest. This quarterly report tracks data and trends from the major providers of ICANN's Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP).

This inaugural issue, launched during the global coronavirus pandemic, includes detailed data from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Forum, the two most active UDRP providers, which together historically account for about 95 percent of all disputes. Future issues may include data from the other UDRP providers: the Czech Arbitration Court, the Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Centre, the Arab Center for Dispute Resolution, and the Canadian International Internet Resolution Centre.

Why is GigaLaw launching this Domain Dispute Digest now, during a pandemic? Because now may be the most important time to address and better understand the cybersquatting problem – including how it harms companies and consumers – given two significant developments:

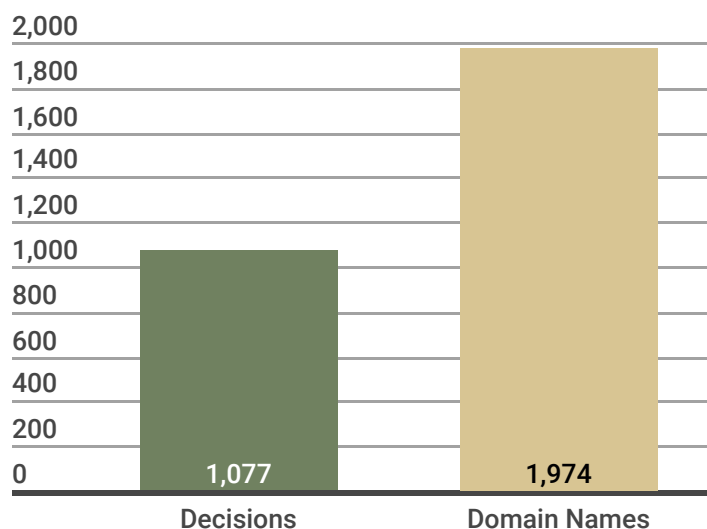
- As numerous news reports make clear, cybersquatters and other online scammers are taking advantage of concerns about the coronavirus to prey on the public now more than ever, masquerading as banks, healthcare companies, technology providers, and more.
- We have just ended the busiest year for domain name disputes, with more complaints filed in 2019 than ever before in the 20-year history of the UDRP.

GigaLaw's Domain Dispute Digest provides new insights on the UDRP, the most important legal tool for trademark owners on the Internet. I welcome your thoughts and questions about this report.

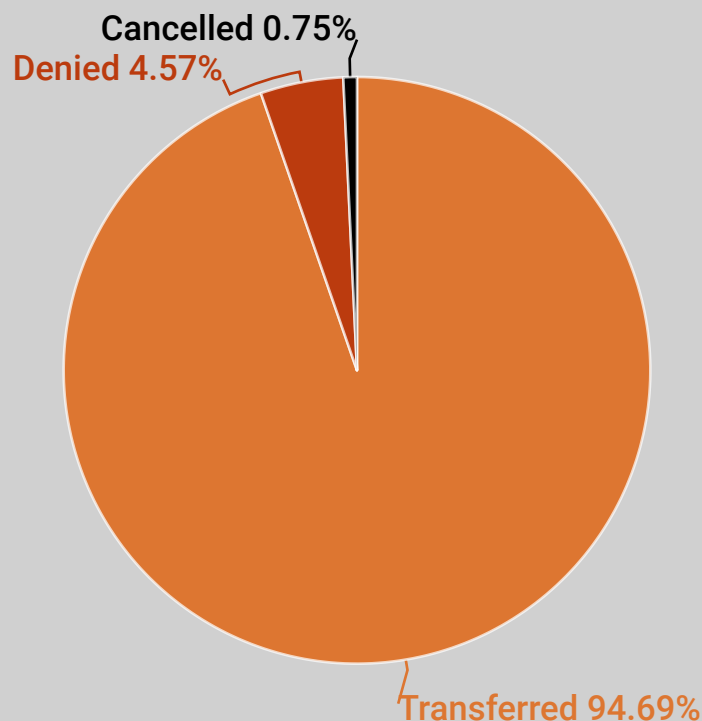
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## Number of UDRP Decisions and Domain Names

After a record number of UDRP proceedings in 2019 – more than 4,700 at WIPO and the Forum combined – the first quarter of 2020 indicates a slight drop in the number of cases, with 1,077 decisions and 1,974 disputed domain names, for an average of 1.83 domain names per complaint.



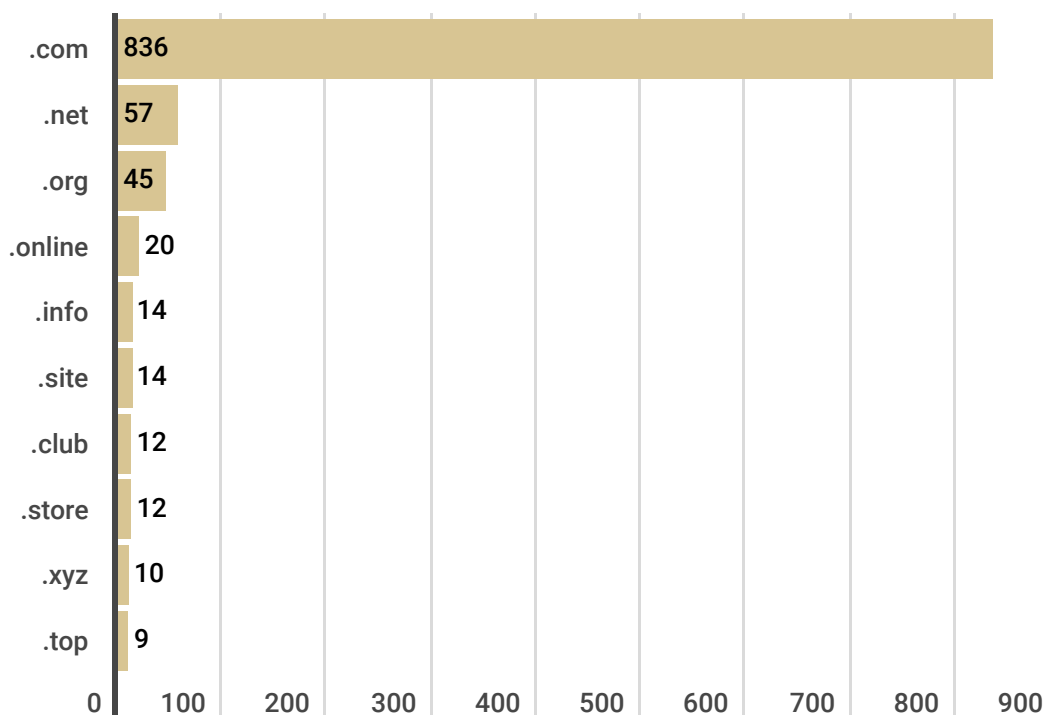
## Outcome



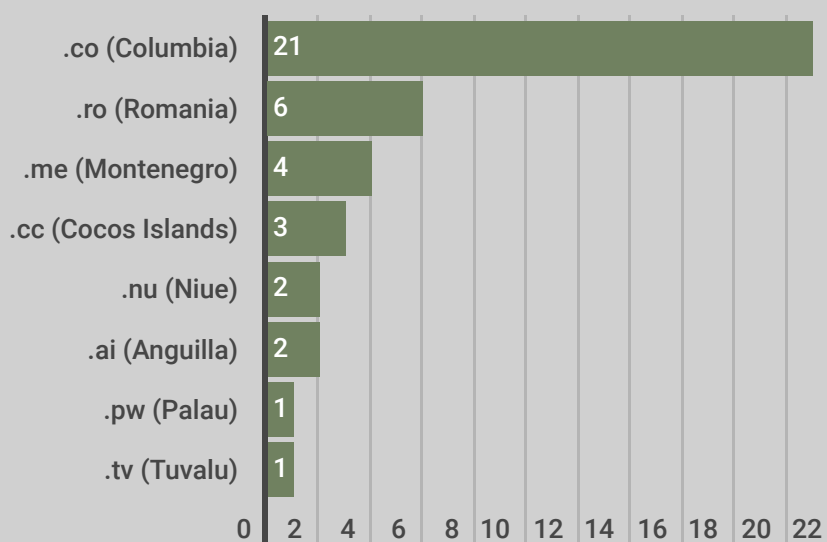
The UDRP remains an incredibly effective tool for trademark owners to combat cybersquatters, with almost 95% of all decisions in the quarter resulting in transfers of domain name registrations from respondents to trademark owners, which is slightly above the all-time average.

## Most Common gTLDs

As usual, .com, .net, and .org remain the most commonly disputed gTLDs this quarter, with many of the others on this list corresponding to their popularity among domain name registrations in general.

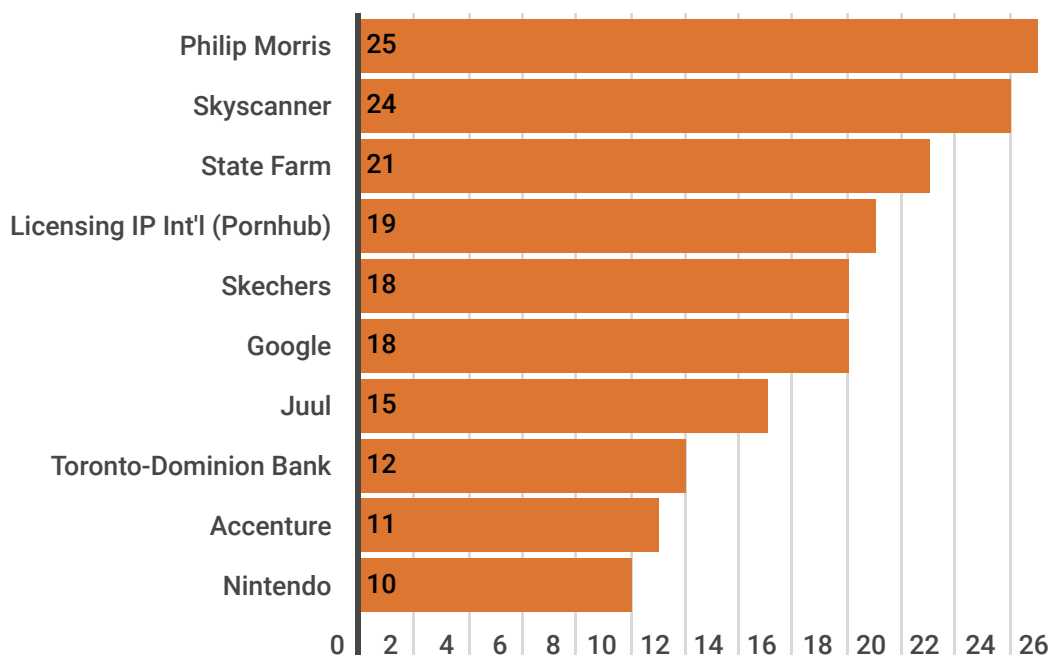


## Most Common ccTLDs



As usual, .co is the most commonly disputed ccTLD this quarter, probably because cybersquatters find it a good (and confusing) alternative to .com. Interestingly, .ai has recently become a target for cybersquatters given its association with the growing “artificial intelligence” industry.

## Most Active Trademark Owners



The most frequent filers of UDRP complaints this quarter come from a variety of industries, indicating that no trademark owner is immune from cybersquatting.

## Largest Cases

Large UDRP complaints remain the exception, although they continue to offer trademark owners an efficient way to approach domain name disputes where active cybersquatters can be identified.

Complainant	Case No.	No. of Domains
Cube (188)	<a href="#">WIPO D2019-2901</a>	496
Dareos (Vulkan)	<a href="#">WIPO D2020-0133</a>	39
Tamarack	<a href="#">Forum 1881295</a>	21
Hyundai	<a href="#">WIPO D2019-2987</a>	18
Credit Karma	<a href="#">WIPO D2019-2415</a>	13
Keolis	<a href="#">WIPO D2020-0081</a>	12
Philip Morris	<a href="#">WIPO D2019-3073</a>	12
BJ's Wholesale Club	<a href="#">WIPO D2020-0153</a>	11
Haw Par (Tiger Balm)	<a href="#">WIPO D2019-2475</a>	11
Wynn Resorts	<a href="#">WIPO D2019-3118</a>	9
Robert Half	<a href="#">Forum 1882210</a>	9

## Spotlight: Coronavirus and the UDRP

Coronavirus-related issues not only dominated the world in the first quarter of 2020, but they also played a large role in domain name disputes. Despite the “shelter-at-home” restrictions imposed by governments worldwide, the UDRP service providers continued to serve trademark owners via remote operations. While operating remotely, WIPO advised parties in UDRP proceedings that “a degree of flexibility and discretion may be appropriate or necessary in individual case scenarios,” and the Forum said that it would “remain fully operational and accessible for all matters and will continue to respond to all inquiries quickly and efficiently.”

Meanwhile, opportunists began to register coronavirus-related domain names, with two UDRP decisions favoring Google – the first trademark owner to file complaints for domain names containing the name of the pandemic – for <coronavirusgoogle.com> and <googlecoronavirus.com>.

### From the GigaLaw Blog:

- [Coronavirus and the UDRP](#)
- [Cybersquatters Take Advantage of ‘Coronavirus’ Domain Names](#)
- [Despite Coronavirus, UDRP Complaints on the Rise](#)
- [The First ‘Coronavirus’ UDRP Decision](#)

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## About the UDRP and GigaLaw

The Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) is a domain name dispute policy created by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in 1999 that provides trademark owners with an inexpensive and quick legal process to combat cybersquatting. It applies to .com and all of the global or generic top-level domains, as well as about 40 country-code top-level domains.

GigaLaw is a law firm founded by Doug Isenberg (right), one of the world's most active domain name attorneys. Isenberg frequently represents trademark owners under the UDRP and other domain name dispute policies, and he filed the largest UDRP complaint ever, for more than 1,500 domain names, in 2009. He also serves as a domain name panelist for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Forum, and other domain name dispute providers.

The *World Trademark Review* has said that Isenberg is “a whiz on all things to do with Internet law and domain names.”

For more information, visit [www.Giga.Law](http://www.Giga.Law) or email [Doug@Giga.Law](mailto:Doug@Giga.Law)



This issue of GigaLaw's Domain Dispute Digest includes data from WIPO and the Forum. Analyzed data is from decisions dated January 1-March 31, 2020, and published as of April 23, 2020. This report is for general informational purposes only, provides only a summary of specific issues, and is not intended to be and should not be relied upon as legal advice regarding any specific situation. This report is not intended to create, and does not constitute, an attorney-client relationship. Readers should consult with legal counsel to determine how laws, policies or decisions and other topics discussed in this report apply to the readers' specific circumstances. This report may be considered attorney advertising under court rules of certain jurisdictions. Copyright © 2020 The GigaLaw Firm, Douglas M. Isenberg, Attorney at Law, LLC