



Since 1990

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW  
ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

JAN 2024

# NEWSLETTER



# INTRODUCTION



Dear IPLAN Member, Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Executive Committee of IPLAN, I welcome you to the year 2024 and it is my great pleasure to introduce you to the inaugural edition of our IPLAN Newsletter, a collection of key milestones and important insights from the previous year.

The Executive team considered it pertinent to establish a sustainable channel of communication for easy-to-access one-stop shop for valuable information relating to IPLAN's initiatives and insights into our strategy implementation. Additionally, this newsletter will serve as a dynamic platform for our members, providing a concise yet comprehensive overview of the evolving landscape of IP both locally and on the global stage.

This newsletter is also a conduit for thought leadership, offering a space for the publication of members' articles, research, and expertise. In this spirit, we warmly welcome our esteemed members to contribute to this intellectual exchange by submitting their thought leadership materials, fostering a vibrant community of knowledge-sharing and collaboration within the field of Intellectual Property. Together, we shape the narrative and contribute to the development of IP in Nigeria.

In this newsletter, we have curated, for your reading pleasure, major strides, and efforts witnessed in 2023. As we reminisce on some of our activities through 2023 and plan ahead for 2024, I hope this Newsletter will enhance communication, encourage member engagement, and ultimately aid the progression of our association.

It has been a delight serving the interests of our members, and we hope to keep doing more for the advancement of IPLAN through 2024. Finally, I would like to thank my able executive committee members as well as the editorial team, led by Hibbatun-Nasser Shobambi for putting this together, and we hope the readers find this edition insightful.

Signed: President, IPLAN

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Obafemi Agaba". The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style with large, sweeping letters.

## **AGM & Elections - A New Dawn**

The present IPLAN administration commenced its tenure towards the end of Q1—during the annual general meeting held on March 14th, 2023, a new executive committee was elected and appointed by IPLAN members.

The new executive committee consists of Obafemi Agaba (President, [Jackson Etti & Edu]), Tiwalola Osazuwa (Vice President [AELEX]), Uzuomaka Emerole (General Secretary [Dentons-ACAS Law]), Chizitereihe Oti (Financial Secretary [Stren & Blan Partners]), Sandra Eke (Treasurer [S.P.A. Ajibade & Co]), Esther Gbenro (Asst. Gen Secretary [Aluko & Oyebode]), Timilehin Aladesuyi (Social Secretary [B&I]), Hibbatun-Nasser Shobambi (Asst. Social Secretary [Olaniwun Ajayi]), Segun Adebisi (Special Duties [DLA Piper]), Jesutooni Ajiboye (Learning & Development [DETAIL]).

## **WIPD: “Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity**

The World Intellectual Property Day (“WIPD”) webinar was hosted in collaboration with My Intellectual Property Law Guide, on 26th April 2023.

The event featured female panelists ; Lilian Sisei (Senior Asst. Registrar, Patents & Designs Registry, Nigeria), Dr. Adekunbi Omotosho (CEO, Apps & Scripts Technologies), Tolu Olaoye (Partner, Jackson, Etti & Edu), Adejoke Lasisi (Founder and Creative Director, Planet 3R), as well as a key note address by Dr. Oluwatobiloba Moody (Director, WIPO Nigeria

The WIPD discourse was centered around Nigeria’s creative and innovative economy – agritech, fintech, fashion and information technology and the role of intellectual property in accelerating innovation.

The session unraveled major challenges confronting women in the creative sectors and how some existing legal safeguards can be adopted to protect women’s interests and improve the overall economy, considering the integral role women play in the growth of Nigeria’s economy.

The WIPD session also uncovered some of the urgent reforms required to Nigeria’s IP regulations, the implementation of which will further the preservation of the overall creative and innovative economy.

Overall, the success of the event underscored the importance of vertical collaboration between IPLAN and key IP stakeholders such as MILPG, WIPO, and industry pioneers within the creative economy.

## **NCC's presentation on the New Copyright Act**

On July 27, 2023, IPLAN hosted a webinar in collaboration with the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) themed **'Understanding the New Copyright Act: Insights from the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC)'**.

The webinar was value-packed as the Director General of NCC, John Asein, Ph.D. delivered a stellar key note address focusing on the post enactment implementation plans of the NCC, while Mr. Michael Akpan, the Head of Regulatory at the NCC delivered an erudite presentation on the salient developments under the new Act.

In line with IPLAN's objective to disseminate information concerning the protection of IP in Nigeria, it was crucial to provide industry stakeholders with a platform to engage with the regulators regarding the implementation of the new Act. We strategically extended invites to non-legal stakeholders whose interests may be affected by the new legislation authors, content creators, Artists, IT sector, producers, artistes, publishers, etc.

The webinar recorded 293 registrants and a very engaging audience of 142 attendees with commendable feedback which was mirrored in the IPLAN's social media growth. [Access the presentation slides here.](#)

## **IPLAN'S PARTICIPATION in industry events**

### **Highlights from the NORCODE Workshop on Music Business Knowledge & Good Governance**

The Norwegian Copyright Development Association ("NORCODE") in collaboration with the University of Agder in Norway organized a physical Workshop on Music Business Knowledge & Good Governance (the "Workshop") which took place everyday for a week in November. Key stakeholders, associations and government parastatals were in attendance as various key areas on the Nigerian music business were explored and discussed. The enriching workshop delved into details of capturing the attention of the music market and effectively monetizing same, the role of AI in music today, music rights management, good governance and sustainability issues in the music business. IPLAN was well represented and contributed on each day of the Workshop. The workshop was eventually wrapped up with the crafting of an action plan for implementation using insights from contributions in the Workshop.

## **Highlights from the WIPO – Madrid Protocol Stakeholders Conversation**

The Nigerian Trade Marks Registry in collaboration with WIPO organized a special session for stakeholders in Nigeria on the Madrid System for International Registration of Marks. The Program took place at the UN House, WIPO Nigeria Office and was designed to acquaint IP practitioners and stakeholders on the nitty gritty of the Madrid System. IPLAN was ably represented physically and online, and arguments were put forth for an against Nigeria becoming a member of the Madrid Protocol and IPLAN. A major concern with joining the Madrid Protocol as raised by our association is the potential neglect of the challenges faced at the Registry.

## **Highlights from the NIPC- Maiden IP Convention**

The Nigerian Intellectual Property Club (NIPC) is a national student organisation comprising of 25 Intellectual Property Clubs in Nigerian Universities, with a membership strength of over 2,500 individuals. In collaboration with WIPO, NIPC organized the maiden National IP Convention themed: “The Creative Industries and the Fourth Industrial Revolution: The Role of Intellectual Property” which took place from July 31st to August 4th 2023.

IPLAN’s executive committee members were in attendance and joined the discourse on several panel sessions .

# REGULATORY INTERFACE

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## **Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment**

IPLAN took the opportunity to write to the newly appointed Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment — charged with regulatory oversight of the Nigerian Trademarks Registry (NTMR) — regarding the various challenges plaguing the delivery of service by the NTMR.

An emergency IPLAN stakeholder's meeting was held to note members issues in accessing quality service from the NTMR as well as solutions proffered. This was collated and sent by IPLAN on behalf of its members to the Ministry.



## **Collaboration with the Patents and Designs Registry on WIPD Event**

IPLAN successfully partnered with the Patents and Designs Registry to organise a World Intellectual Property Day Event which had the presence of Ms. Lilian Sisei (the Senior Assistant Registrar), who ensured the session was educative and geared towards a positive development and recognition of the need for IP protection in accelerating innovation in Nigeria.





## THE MADRID INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARK REGISTRATION SYSTEM: NIGERIA TO JOIN OR NOT

# POLICY DEBATE

IPLAN concluded the year with a Policy debate and End of the year cocktail party.

The debate "The Madrid International Trademark Registration System: Nigeria to Join or Not" was engaging and insightful owing to the presence of DR. SHAFIU ADAMU YAURI, the Registrar of Trademarks, the moderation of Prof. Ayoyemi Lawal-Arowolo Ph.D (Kent) and the strong arguments canvassed by the debaters. The debate witnessed Mr. Femi Fajolu & Ms. Omolara (Lara) Kayode arguing in support while Mark Mordi (SAN) & Ms. Olatoyosi Alabi vehemently argued against.



# END OF YEAR COCKTAIL PARTY

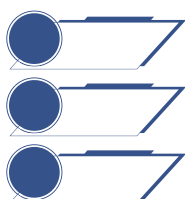


[Click here to view full gallery](#)



# WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024?

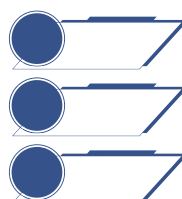
## Our Strategy and Plans



Launch of our bi-annual Newsletters

Collaboration with Industry Partners

Continued regulatory interface



Dissemination of thought leadership

IP-tailored trainings and development programmes

Intellectual Property Advocacy

IPLAN has officially launched its bi-annual Newsletter which is indicative of the Association's dedication to promoting the interests of its members and the objectives of the Association. We aim to increase industry collaborations and partnerships in 2024 to strategically position IPLAN as a major IP Association in Nigeria and Africa.

This year, we are working towards curating IP tailored events that we hope will encourage active participation of our esteemed members as these events will be specifically targeted at benefitting us all. We also plan to increase our publicity efforts for these upcoming events, we therefore encourage our distinguished members to share publicity materials received in the course of the year on social media and other platforms. We intend to continue our efforts in engaging the regulators, particularly, the newly inaugurated Minister on the long-standing issues plaguing the Trademarks Registry.

## Membership Dues

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you about your Annual Membership Dues for the year 2024.

Membership dues are essential for sustaining our Association's initiatives, events, and resources that directly benefit you and fellow members.

## How to make payment



# THANK YOU

- As we bid farewell to the remarkable moments of the past year, on behalf of the executive committee of IPLAN, I want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated members. Your active participation in the various activities has been the driving force behind our association's success.
- A special thank you goes to our sponsors (Aelix, Aluko & Oyebode, Banwo & Ighodalo, Dentons ACAS, Jackson, Etti & Edu, & Olaniwun Ajayi), for their invaluable contribution to the success of our end-of-year cocktail event. Your generous contributions enriched the experience for all attendees and made the event truly memorable.
- I also want to express gratitude to the dedicated members of the editorial team (Segun, Timilehin, Chizitereih and Jesutooni) for their contributions to the inaugural IPLAN Newsletter despite other commitments.
- As we look forward to the rest of 2024, we remain excited about the opportunities for growth and look forward to another year of achievements, and the continued success of our association.

Signed: Newsletter Editor, IPLAN

*Hibbatun-Nasser Shobambi*

