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HAMU
LEGAL
TRUST & EXCELLENCE

Intellectual Property Report 3.0

A structured review of global IP trends, Nigerian case law, and the evolving pathways for IP ownership and monetization.

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Source: Anytka

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Foreward

Intellectual property (IP) has become one of the most important economic infrastructures of the modern economy. From technology and finance to music, film, fashion, and software, value today is increasingly created not only through physical assets but through ideas, brands, data, and creative expression. How these assets are protected, owned, and monetized now shapes who can compete, who can invest, and who ultimately benefits from innovation.

It brings together key international developments, recent judicial decisions, policy updates, and practical guidance to clarify how intellectual property law is evolving and how those changes affect businesses, creators, and rights holders.

This edition of Hamu Legal's Intellectual Property Report explores these issues from both a global and Nigerian perspective. It reflects how advancements in technology and regulatory changes are transforming IP markets, and what these shifts imply for creators, startups, investors, and established firms. Through an analysis of recent court rulings, policy reforms, and new business models, the report underscores the opportunities and risks shaping Nigeria's IP landscape.

A particular focus of this edition is the monetization of intellectual property. While Nigerian creators and innovators generate vast amounts of IP, the systems required to convert those rights into bankable, investable assets remain underdeveloped. The report examines how licensing, collective management, brand extensions, and IP-backed finance can serve as the basis for a more organized and economically effective IP market.

As new technologies, platforms, and creative industries continue to transform how value is created, intellectual property policy will play an increasingly decisive role in shaping Nigeria's economic future. Whether IP becomes a driver of inclusive growth or a source of fragmentation depends on how effectively law, regulation, and market practice evolve together.

It is in that context that this report has been prepared. Its purpose is not only to document legal developments, but to support better-informed decision-making across Nigeria's innovation and creative economy.



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Associate



Executive Summary

Welcome to the latest edition of our Intellectual Property (IP) Report, where we explore the evolving landscape of IP law and innovation in Nigeria, across Africa, and around the globe.

This edition offers a comprehensive overview of significant global IP decisions, emerging trends, and international policy developments shaping the protection and commercialization of intellectual assets.

At the national level, we spotlight key IP decisions in Nigeria, recent legislative and policy updates, and what they mean for rights holders, creators, and businesses operating in the country's innovation ecosystem. Our Big Issue feature, **"Monetizing IP Assets in Nigeria: Charting a Pathway to Expanding Nigeria's IP Market,"** examines the growing need for structured frameworks and strategies that translate creativity into economic value.

We also present a practical Case Study titled **"On Your Marks! Securing Trademarks in Nigeria for Startups and SMEs,"** alongside an in-depth discussion on **"When and How Trademark Ownership is Established,"** addressing common misconceptions about ownership rights and registration procedures.

Finally, we share updates on upcoming IP events and conferences, as well as a concise Glossary of IP Terms for quick reference.

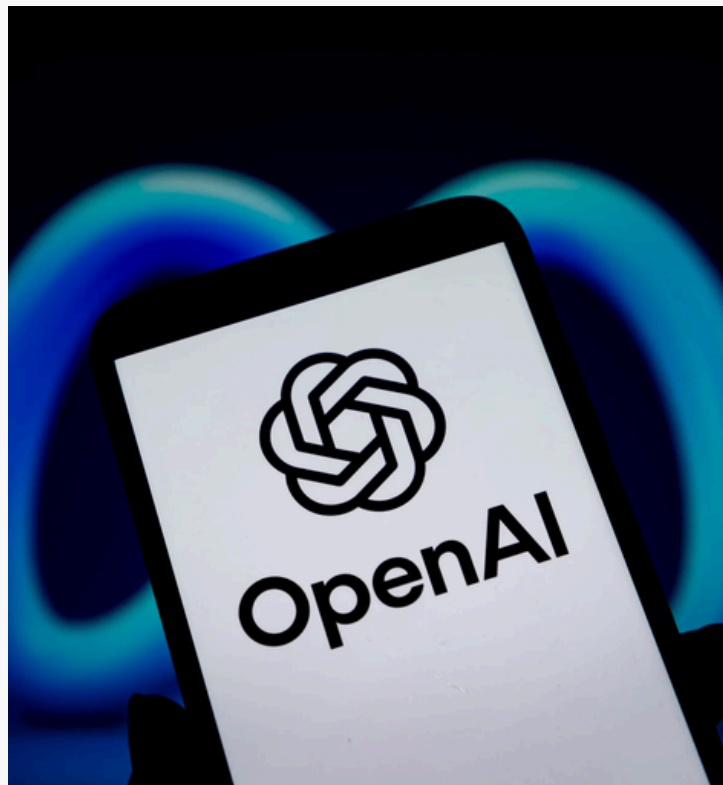
Thank you for engaging with our insights as we continue to highlight the trends, opportunities, and challenges shaping Nigeria's IP environment within the broader global context.

Global IP Landscape: Africa and the Rest of the World

AI in the Dock: Court Partly Grants OpenAI and GitHub's Motion to Dismiss in Copilot Copyright Suit¹

In a closely watched decision, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on February 5, 2025, issued an order granting in part and denying in part, a motion to dismiss filed by OpenAI, GitHub, and Microsoft in the ongoing class action over their AI-powered coding assistant, GitHub Copilot.

- **The Claims:** A group of software developers alleged that Copilot and its underlying model, trained on public GitHub repositories, unlawfully reproduced open-source code without proper attribution or license compliance. The plaintiffs claimed violations of copyright law, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), and unfair competition statutes, seeking injunctive relief and monetary damages.
- **The Defendants' Motion:** OpenAI and GitHub sought dismissal of all claims, arguing that the plaintiffs lacked standing, failed to allege specific copied works, and misunderstood how AI training and output generation operate. They also maintained that Copilot's outputs were transformative and protected by fair use.



Source: CFOTO/ Future Publishing via Getty Images

- **The Court's Decision:** The Court dismissed several claims including broad copyright infringement and unjust enrichment on procedural and evidentiary grounds but allowed certain DMCA and damages claims to proceed. Specifically, the Court held that plaintiffs adequately alleged injury for monetary damages related to the removal of copyright management information in Copilot's outputs, allowing that issue to move forward.
- **The Outcome:** The ruling narrows the scope of the plaintiffs' case but ensures that core issues around attribution, training data, and fair use will be tested in court, making it one of the first major U.S. cases to scrutinize how AI models interact with copyright law.

¹ J. Doe et al. v. GitHub, Inc., OpenAI, Inc. & Others (U.S. District Court, N.D. Cal., 2025)

Forward Guidance

This decision carries major implications for the global AI and software development ecosystem:

- For AI Developers: The ruling underscores the need for clear data provenance and attribution protocols when training and deploying generative AI models
- For Open-Source Communities: It raises pivotal questions about how open-source licenses apply to AI training, particularly whether training on licensed data triggers copyright obligations.
- **For Regulators and Courts:** The partial survival of the plaintiffs' claims signals that AI training data and output liability will continue to evolve through litigation rather than settled law which is a critical frontier for global IP jurisprudence.

Supreme Court Upholds FCC Authority Under Chevron: Brand X Clarifies Agency Power to Interpret Ambiguous Statutes²

The case arose from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Declaratory Ruling classifying broadband cable modem service as an **"information service"** rather than a **"telecommunications service"** under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

This classification meant that cable broadband providers were not subject to Title II common-carrier regulation – i.e., no mandatory duty to open their networks to competitors.

The Supreme Court reversed and remanded, reinstating the FCC's classification of broadband Internet as an information service.

Forward Guidance

This ruling remains one of the most consequential administrative law decisions in the digital era. It cemented Chevron deference as a cornerstone of regulatory interpretation and shaped U.S. Internet policy for decades, influencing later disputes on net neutrality, broadband competition, and the scope of agency authority over emerging technologies.



² National Cable & Telecommunications Association v. Brand X Internet Services, 545 U.S. 967 (2005)

Key IP Decisions in Nigeria

A Stack of Claims: Paystack and Zap Africa Lock Horns Over Trademark Rights in Nigeria



Source: Big Tech This Week

When Paystack launched its first consumer product, Zap by Paystack, it quickly drew fire from Zap Africa, a crypto startup that claimed Paystack's new product infringed its registered trademark, "Zap."

- **The Claims:** Zap Africa, which had filed for "Zap" in Classes 35, 36, and 42, accused Paystack of trademark infringement and brand dilution, arguing that the shared name caused consumer confusion and harmed its business. The company issued a cease-and-desist letter on March 26, 2025, demanding Paystack withdraw all Zap-branded materials and issue a public apology.
- **Paystack's Defence:** Paystack countered that its mark "Zap by

- Paystack" was distinct, duly registered in December 2023 under Classes 36 and 42, and therefore lawfully protected. It also noted that "Zap" is a common term already used by numerous Nigerian businesses, making exclusive ownership difficult.
- **Legal Considerations:** Nigeria's first-to-file rule typically grants priority to the first registrant, though the Registrar may approve similar marks under the doctrine of honest concurrent use. Both parties hold registrations in overlapping classes, setting up a direct conflict over distinctiveness, priority, and potential consumer confusion.
- **What's Next:** With neither side backing down, the dispute could proceed to court, potentially becoming a landmark case on how Nigeria's trademark registry and courts interpret overlapping marks in the fintech and tech sectors.

Forward Guidance

For Startups: This dispute underscores the importance for startups to:

- Conduct early and comprehensive trademark searches before launching products, especially in competitive sectors like fintech.
- File across all relevant classes to secure broader protection.

- Monitor competitors' filings to avoid conflicts and costly rebranding.

For Regulators and IP practitioners:

The outcome could clarify the scope of the Registrar's discretion, and the practical application of honest concurrent use, which are two areas where Nigerian trademark jurisprudence that remain largely undeveloped.

What's in a Mark? MTN Loses ₦840 Million 'WEBPLUS' Trademark Case³

On March 23, 2025, the Federal High Court, Lagos ordered MTN Nigeria to pay ₦840 million in damages to Citilink Accesscorp Ltd for infringing its registered trademark, "WEBPLUS." The court found that MTN's use of "MTN WEBPLUS" and "WEB+" unlawfully copied Citilink's mark, causing confusion and diluting its brand identity.

- **The Claims:** Citilink, which registered WEBPLUS in Class 9 in 2001 and renewed it in 2014, alleged that MTN's use of MTN WEBPLUS amounted to trademark infringement. MTN argued that its 2012 filing was made honestly and concurrently without deceptive intent and that Citilink's mark had expired.
- **The Court's Findings:** The court rejected MTN's defences, ruling that WEBPLUS and MTN WEBPLUS were confusingly similar. It clarified that a

- trademark remains valid until removed from the register, even if the renewal is delayed. Citilink's late renewal, therefore, did not extinguish its rights.

- **Jurisdiction & Registry Role:** The court affirmed its exclusive jurisdiction over trademark matters under Section 251(1)(f) of the Constitution, rejecting MTN's jurisdictional challenge. It also ordered the Registrar of Trademarks to prevent future registrations containing WEBPLUS or similar variants, citing lapses in the Registry's conflict checks.

- **The Outcome:** MTN was ordered to pay ₦840 million in general damages (₦70 million per year from 2014–2025), plus 15% annual interest, and was permanently restrained from using WEBPLUS or any similar mark in Classes 9, 16, and 38.

Forward Guidance

This judgment strengthens the enforcement of trademark rights in Nigeria and clarifies two key principles:

- **Validity of Expired Marks:** Trademark rights subsist until formally removed from the register, i.e., late renewal does not automatically terminate protection.

³ Citilink Accesscorp Ltd v. MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd (FHC/L/CS/1124/2014)

- **Strict Infringement Standard:** The rejection of the “honest concurrent use” defence signals a tougher stance on brand confusion and reinforces the first-to-file principle.

For businesses, the case is a clear warning to conduct comprehensive trademark searches and renew registrations promptly.

No Double Licensing: Court Clarifies Hotels’ Copyright Obligations⁴

In a landmark judgment delivered on January 17, 2025, the Federal High Court, Lagos (per Justice A.L. Allagoa), held that hotels subscribing to licensed broadcast services, such as DSTV, are not required to obtain additional licenses from copyright-collecting societies to play musical works transmitted through such channels.

- **The Claims:** The Musical Copyright Society of Nigeria (MCSN) and Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) sued Pyramid Regal Services Ltd, owners of The George Hotel, for allegedly broadcasting copyrighted music without authorization. They sought an injunction and ₦153.6 million in damages for infringement.
- **The Defence:** The hotel argued that all music played within its premises came via DSTV, a paid subscription service owned by Multichoice Nigeria, which already pays royalties to the collecting societies.

- **The Court’s Decision:** The Court agreed with the hotel, noting that the Plaintiffs neither challenged Multichoice’s license nor proved that the DSTV channels lacked authorization. It ruled that subscribing to DSTV constitutes lawful access and dismissed the infringement claims in full.
- **The Outcome:** The Court reaffirmed that licensed broadcast providers bear the obligation to obtain copyright permissions, thereby shielding their subscribers – such as hotels – from liability for secondary use of broadcast content.

Forward Guidance

This decision provides important clarity for the hospitality and entertainment industries:

- Hotels and similar venues that rely on licensed subscription services like DSTV do not require separate copyright licenses for transmitted content.
- The ruling curbs double compensation and ensures that copyright owners are remunerated through their agreements with licensed broadcasters.
- For collecting societies, it underscores the need to align licensing frameworks with

⁴ Musical Copyright Society of Nigeria Ltd/Gte & Broadcast Music Inc. v. Pyramid Regal Services Ltd (FHC/L/CS/1103/2021)

- broadcast agreements to avoid overlapping claims.

The judgment strikes a pragmatic balance between enforcing creators’ rights and protecting lawful users of licensed broadcast content.

Updates on Nigerian IP Legislation and Policy: NCC Issues New Collective Management Regulations, 2025⁵

On January 28, 2025, the Nigeria Copyright Commission (NCC) published the newly gazetted Collective Management Regulations, 2025, repealing and replacing the 2007 Regulations. The new framework introduces far-reaching reforms to strengthen oversight, transparency, and accountability in the operations of Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) in Nigeria.

- **Key Reforms:** The Regulations establish clearer rules for the approval, membership, and management of CMOs. They expand the NCC’s oversight powers and codify obligations that promote fairness, transparency, and equitable treatment of rights owners. CMOs are now required to submit detailed royalty statements showing monies collected and distributed before renewal of their licences, which is a major step toward financial accountability.

- **Dispute Resolution:** The new regime eliminates the NCC’s intermediary “screening” role in resolving disputes, allowing direct and faster access to resolution panels. This reform reduces bureaucracy and speeds up dispute handling between rights owners and CMOs.

- **Governance and Transparency:** CMOs must now disclose the scope of rights transferred by members, as well as procedures for limiting their authority. Multiple CMOs may co-exist in the same rights category, provided their mandates do not overlap. The renewal period for operating licences has been extended from two to three years, offering more stability but also demanding stronger compliance monitoring.

- **Financial Provisions:** Administrative deductions by CMOs are capped at 30% of total annual royalties, subject to NCC approval for any increase. The Regulations also introduce fixed approval fees – **₦1,000,000** for new licences, **₦500,000** for renewals, and **₦100,000** for certified copies.

This ensures transparency and limits discretionary changes.



⁵ Nigeria Copyright Commission (Collective Management Regulations, 2025)

Forward Guidance

The 2025 Regulations represent a significant modernization of Nigeria's collective management system, aligning it with global standards.

- **For Rights Owners:** The new framework enhances transparency and accountability, ensuring fair royalty distribution and greater access to performance data.
- **For CMOs:** The rules demand stronger financial discipline, corporate governance, and compliance, with clear penalties for default.
- **For the NCC:** The strengthened oversight powers will enable more effective regulation and promote trust in Nigeria's collective management ecosystem.

Overall, the reform marks a decisive shift toward a more transparent, efficient, and accountable copyright administration system in Nigeria.

Updates on Nigerian IP Legislation and Policy: Nigeria's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment articulates Federal IP Policy/Strategy 2025

On December 17, 2025, an Inter-Ministerial Committee led by the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Justice; the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Creative Economy; the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation; the World Intellectual Property Organization; the Nigerian Copyright Commission; and the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion, organized the Public Presentation of the Nigeria Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS).

The presentation aims to introduce Nigeria's national framework for protecting creativity, financing innovation, and commercialising culture, and outline how NIPPS addresses long-standing gaps in IP awareness, access to financing, enforcement, and research-to-market linkages by positioning intellectual property as a strategic economic asset.



When and How Trademark Ownership is Established



Source: Pexels

Introduction

What is a Trademark? The Trademarks Act, **Cap T13, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 (the "Act")** defines trademark as a mark used or proposed to be used in relation to goods for the purpose of indicating, or so as to indicate, a connection in the course of trade between the goods and the person having the right either as proprietor or as registered user to use the mark, whether with or without any indication of the identity of that person, and means, in relation to a certification trade mark, a mark registered or deemed to have been registered under section 43 of the Act.⁶

In simple terms, trademark simply means any sign that defines an organisation's brand identity. This can range from sound, taste, logos, and texts, etc. In Nigeria, trademark is governed by the Trademarks Act, and the regulatory body responsible for enforcing trademark decisions in Nigeria is the Trademarks Registry.

In recent times, we have seen a surge in the public's perception of the importance of trademarks and an aggressive approach by trademarks owners in establishing ownership over trademarks. The question, however, has been establishing at what point, a trademark owner would have been said to have organised trademarks.

Basis of Trademark Ownership

In Nigeria, the foundation of trademark ownership is primarily registration-based, as governed by the Trademarks Act. While limited rights may arise from prior use, ownership and exclusive rights in a trademark are legally recognized only upon registration with the Trademarks, Patents and Designs Registry, under the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

A person who claims to be the proprietor of a trademark used or proposed to be used in relation to particular goods may apply for its registration.⁷ Upon successful registration, the proprietor obtains the exclusive right to use the mark in connection with those goods or services and to prevent others from using identical or confusingly similar marks.

The Act recognizes two main parts of the register:

- **Part A:** For marks that are inherently distinctive or capable of distinguishing goods of the proprietor from others.⁸

⁶ Section 67 Trademarks Act

⁷ Section 3 Trademarks Act

⁸ Section 5 Trademarks Act

- **Part B:** For marks that are not inherently distinctive but have acquired distinctiveness through use.⁹

Ownership is therefore legally conferred by entry of the mark in the register, which serves as prima facie evidence of proprietorship.

Nigeria operates a first-to-file system. This means that the first applicant to file a valid trademark application, meeting the requirements of the Act, is entitled to registration and ownership even if another party has been using a similar mark earlier, provided that such earlier user did not register the mark.

Although registration is the principal source of trademark ownership in Nigeria, the law also recognizes prior use under the doctrine of passing off, which is rooted in common law. However, unlike registration, passing off does not confer ownership in the statutory sense as it only protects the goodwill associated with the mark. Therefore, while prior use can be relevant, especially in opposing a later application, it is registration that establishes formal ownership in Nigeria.

The Act also provides that no person shall be entitled to institute any proceeding to prevent, or to recover damages for, the infringement of an unregistered trade mark. Still, nothing in this Act shall be taken to affect rights of action against any person for passing off goods as the goods of another person or the remedies in respect thereof.¹⁰

The Acceptance Letter vs. Certificate of Registration

In Nigerian trademark practice, an Acceptance Letter simply indicates that the Examiner has examined the application and found the mark acceptable for publication in the Trademarks Journal. It is a preliminary approval, not evidence of ownership. At this stage, the mark is still open to opposition from third parties, and no legal rights have yet been conferred on the applicant. Ownership arises only when the Certificate of Registration is issued, following successful completion of the publication and opposition period. The certificate serves as conclusive proof that the trademark is registered under the Trade Marks Act and that the holder has exclusive rights to use and enforce the mark in Nigeria.

Practical Implication

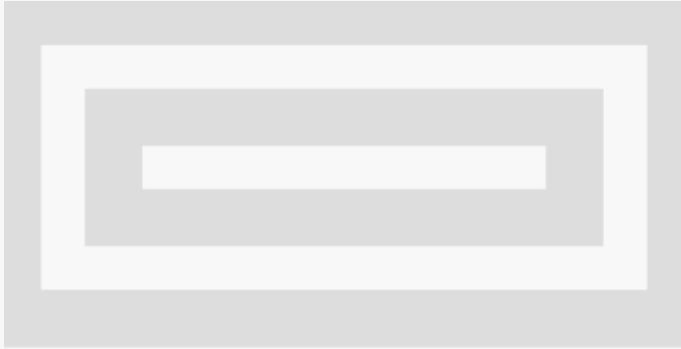
Until the certificate is issued, the applicant's rights are merely inchoate (incomplete). This means:

- The applicant cannot sue for infringement based solely on an acceptance letter.
- The applicant's claim of ownership remains conditional upon completion of registration.
- If another person successfully registers a conflicting mark before the certificate is issued, priority may be lost.

⁹ Section 6 Trademarks Act

¹⁰ Section 3 Trademarks Act

Therefore, trademark proprietors should ensure that their applications proceed to full registration and obtain the Certificate of Registration before asserting ownership or engaging in enforcement actions.



Conclusion

In Nigeria, trademark ownership does not begin with the acceptance of an application but with its registration. The Acceptance Letter merely signals that the mark has passed preliminary examination; it does not confer any proprietary rights. True ownership and enforceable legal rights arise only when the Certificate of Registration is issued by the Trademarks Registry. Until then, an applicant's claim remains incomplete, and the mark cannot be legally enforced.



Source: Nairametrics

Big Issue: Monetizing IP Assets in Nigeria: Charting a Pathway to Expanding Nigeria's IP Market

Nigeria's creative economy continues to expand, producing intellectual property (IP) assets across music, film, fashion, literature, design, and technology. Yet, despite this vibrancy, most creators and innovators are unable to convert their IP into tangible financial value. While IP protection has improved especially with the enactment of the Copyright Act, 2022, and the new Collective Management Regulations, 2025, the country's IP monetization ecosystem remains largely informal and underdeveloped.

Our Big Story explores the importance of monetizing IP assets in Nigeria, the challenges facing right owners, and practical pathways to build a structured, investable IP market that can drive national economic growth.

What Does Monetizing IP Mean?

Monetizing intellectual property means transforming intangible rights such as copyrights, trademarks, patents, or designs into income-generating or financeable assets. This could occur through licensing, franchising, royalty collection, merchandising, or even using IP as collateral for loans or investments.

For instance, a filmmaker who licenses film streaming rights, a musician who collects royalties via a collective management organization, or a tech startup that patents its software and licenses it to other firms are all monetizing IP. The goal is to ensure that creative output becomes a sustainable revenue source rather than a one-time commercial transaction.

Methods for Monetizing IP

Creatives can monetize their intellectual property in several ways. We have highlighted some key ways creatives can do this:

- **Licensing:** Licensing is one of the most common ways for creatives to earn income from their intellectual property. It involves granting others permission to use your work for a fee, usually paid as royalties. For instance, a musical artist can license their music for use in films, advertisements, or streaming platforms; a fashion designer or an artist can license unique fabric patterns to other brands; and a filmmaker can license screening or broadcasting rights to platforms like Netflix or Africa Magic. It is important that every licensing agreement is properly documented in writing, clearly specifying the duration, territory, payment terms, and scope of use. This ensures transparency, protects licensor's rights, and prevents potential disputes over usage or payment.



Source: Netflix

- **Merchandising and Brand Extension:**

Another way creatives can monetize their IP is through merchandising and brand extensions. This involves leveraging creative works or brand identity to produce and sell complementary products such as branded clothing, artwork prints, collectibles, or even fragrances. By extending your creative identity into merchandise, you not only generate an additional revenue stream but also strengthen brand recognition and loyalty. For example, a popular artist can produce a line of branded apparel using their protected artwork or trademarked logo. Successful merchandising requires strategic branding, quality production, and consistent audience engagement.

Franchising and Collaboration:

Franchising and collaborations offer powerful opportunities for scaling a creative business and expanding into new markets. Creatives who have built strong brands can license their business models or collaborate with other companies to reach wider audiences.

- For instance, a fashion designer can franchise their retail concept to other cities, a celebrity chef can license their name and recipes to restaurant chains, and a film studio can enter into collaboration or profit-sharing agreements with distributors or streaming platforms. Franchising requires a registered trademark and a well-documented business system to ensure consistency and protect brand integrity. Collaborations, on the other hand, allow creatives to share resources and audiences while maximizing commercial potential.
- **Royalty Collection through CMOs:** For musicians, filmmakers, and writers, royalty collection through Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) is a vital avenue for monetizing their creative works. CMOs collect and distribute royalties on behalf of rights owners whenever their works are publicly performed, broadcast, or reproduced. In Nigeria, examples of CMOs include the Musical Copyright Society of Nigeria (MCSN), the Copyright Society of Nigeria (COSON), and the Audio Visual Rights Society (AVRS). Registering with an approved CMO ensures you receive fair compensation for the continued use of your work across media platforms. However, creatives must verify that the CMO is duly licensed by the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) before registration to ensure proper representation and compliance.



Source: Dyelab

- **Using IP as Collateral or Investment:** Intellectual property can also serve as a valuable financial asset. With proper valuation, creatives can use their IP as collateral for loans or to attract investors. This approach recognizes creative works as tangible economic assets with measurable market value. Although still developing in Nigeria, IP-backed financing is increasingly recognized globally as a means to fund creative projects and expand business operations. To take advantage of this, creatives should maintain accurate financial records and usage documentation for their works, as these demonstrate value to potential lenders or investors. Over time, this practice can help establish stronger links between creativity and capital growth in Nigeria's creative economy.
- **Conclusion:** Monetizing intellectual property is one of the most effective ways for creatives to build sustainable income streams and expand the value of their work. In Nigeria's rapidly growing creative economy, understanding how to transform ideas into commercial assets is crucial. Whether through licensing, merchandising, franchising, royalty collection, or leveraging IP as collateral, creatives can convert their talent into long-term financial success. However, effective monetization requires proper IP registration, sound contractual agreements, and professional guidance to avoid exploitation. By viewing their IP not just as creative expression but as a business asset, Nigerian creatives can unlock new opportunities, attract investment, and play a central role in growing the nation's intellectual property market.

Upcoming IP Events and Conferences (2026)



WIPR Summit in Chicago,
March 10-11



Global Intellectual Property
(IP) ConfEx in London,
March 2026



Global IP Exchange USA in
April 2026



2026 Annual Meeting of the
International Trademark
Association (INTA), London,
May 2026



UNION-IP Congress in
Amsterdam (June 10-12)



28th Edition of the
International Intellectual
Property Law Association
(IIPLA) in Dubai, January
19-20



International Conference on Arbitration
and Mediation in Intellectual Property
Rights (ICAMIPR-26) · 11th Apr - 12th Apr
2026 | Prague , Czech Republic

Glossary of IP Terms

- **Royalty:** This is payment made to an IP owner for the authorized use of their intellectual property, usually as a percentage of sales or a fixed fee.
- **Public Domain:** Creative works whose IP protection has expired or that were never protected, meaning anyone can use them without permission.
- **Patent:** An exclusive right granted for an invention that offers a new and useful way of doing something or solves a technical problem. It prevents others from making or using the invention without consent. Example: A new haircare formula or phone design process can be patented.
- **Collective Management Organisation (CMO):** An organisation authorised to manage and collect royalties on behalf of copyright owners when their works are publicly performed, broadcast, or reproduced. Example: MCSN and COSON are approved CMOs in Nigeria.
- **Royalty:** A recurring payment made to an IP owner for the continued use of their work, often calculated as a percentage of sales. Example: A musician receives royalties when their song is streamed online.

About Firm

HAMU Legal is a business-oriented law firm, with innovation, technology and a better way of providing legal services at its heart.

We are legal partners to individuals, early-stage companies, and established companies looking for counsel they can trust. We take pride in providing pragmatic and agile legal counsel to clients who are game-changers that believe in disrupting the status quo, in the pursuit of creating impact in their various sectors. We are driven by our passion for the law and an entrepreneurial spirit to adapt to the changing demands with regards to how legal services are delivered.

At HAMU Legal, our clients are more than just clients – they are our partners. Regardless of how long you have been in partnership with us, we are always here to provide excellent, bespoke services to cater for your legal needs.

This Report is only intended to provide general information on the subject matter and does not by itself create a client/attorney relationship between readers and Hamu Legal or serve as legal or financial advice.

We are available to provide specialist legal advice on the readers' specific circumstances when they arise. For further enquiries, please reach out to our Intellectual Property and Technology team at awuese@hamulegal.com or team@hamulegal.com.

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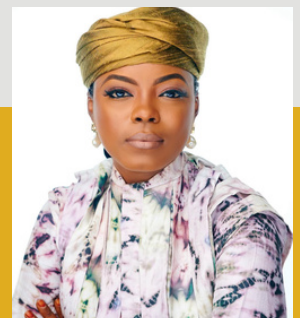
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