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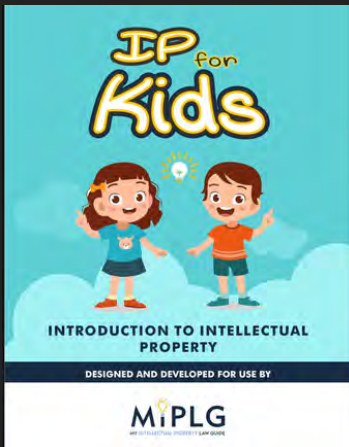
IPAWARDS

MAGAZINE

**MAINSTREAMING IP IN NIGERIA: THE ROLE
OF STAKEHOLDERS**

30th
January,
2026

Oriental Hotel,
Victoria Island,
Lagos





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Order of Events

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Award presentation, Creativity Group

Special Rendition by Ritherchill

Presentation of Awards, Innovation Category

Presentation of Awards, IP Professionals group

Awards presentation, IP Icons/ Special Addresses
of IP Icons

Dance performers

Vote of thanks and Closing remarks

Networking

Welcome Message

Chairperson's Note

Distinguished guests, respected members of the bench and bar, industry leaders, innovators, creators, partners, ladies and gentlemen—good evening.

It is with immense pride and deep gratitude that I welcome you to this prestigious 2nd edition of the Intellectual Property Awards. This 2nd Edition today is more than a ceremony; it is a celebration of ideas, innovation, resilience, and the courage to create.

Intellectual property sits at the heart of progress. It is the bridge between imagination and impact, between creativity and commerce, between innovation and national development. When we protect ideas, we protect the future. And when we celebrate those who champion intellectual property, we strengthen the ecosystem that allows creativity and enterprise to thrive.

The journey to today has been extremely intense. From the open call for nominations to the meticulous evaluation process, every step was guided by our commitment to fairness, transparency, and credibility. The individuals and organizations recognized tonight were selected not merely for excellence, but for the consistency, integrity, and impact of their contributions to the intellectual property landscape.

Tonight, we honour professionals who have advanced IP law and practice, innovators who have transformed ideas into value, institutions that have strengthened enforcement and awareness, and creatives who continue to push boundaries while respecting the power of ownership. Your work matters. Your courage inspires. And your commitment continues to shape industries and influence generations.

I would like to sincerely thank our partners, sponsors, judges, advisory committee, and the dedicated organizing team whose tireless efforts made this event possible. Your belief in this vision has turned an idea into a platform that will definitely endure and grow.

A special recognition goes to the IP Awards 2025 Team for your unwavering commitment, resilience and passion in bringing this vision to life- despite every challenge along the way. This win goes to us all. This is Legacy.

To our award recipients, this recognition is both a celebration and a charge. A charge to do more, to mentor others, to advocate for stronger systems, and to continue raising the standard of excellence in intellectual property.

As we look to the future, may this Awards platform remain a beacon—encouraging innovation, strengthening protection, and inspiring collaboration across sectors and borders.

Once again, welcome, and thank you for being part of this important moment. Let us celebrate excellence.

Thank you.

Joy Ilobun
Chairperson, IP Awards Committee



About the Awards Ceremony



The Intellectual Property (IP) Awards is a ground-breaking initiative that celebrates the transformative power of ingenuity in fostering progress through creativity, innovation. This prestigious ceremony, organized by MIPLG in collaboration with The NestHub, honors individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the advancement of IP in Nigeria. The IP Awards spotlights individuals and organizations whose works have a lasting impact on the IP ecosystem.

At its core, the IP Awards demonstrates how intellectual property is beyond legal concept, but a catalyst for social and economic development. IP serves as the foundation for protecting creators' rights, allowing new ideas and inventions to flourish, while fostering collaboration, creativity, and entrepreneurship. The IP Awards honors those who have championed these principles, ensuring that IP becomes a driving force for positive change.

The purpose of the IP Awards is to cultivate a culture of recognition within the IP space. By showcasing the exceptional achievements of individuals, organizations, and thought leaders, we are inspiring the next generation of innovators, creators, and IP professionals.

Whether in technology, entertainment, healthcare, or education, the ceremony emphasizes the powerful role of IP in shaping industries and communities.

As the maiden edition of the IP Awards, this event not only acknowledges past achievements but also serves as a call to action for the ongoing protection and ethical use of IP. It is a moment to reflect on the journey so far and to look forward to the future, where intellectual property continues to drive growth, innovation, and societal progress.



About



MIPLG is an Africa-focused non-governmental organization with the mandate to actively respond to the growing needs of developing economies by promoting awareness and supporting capacity development in intellectual property (IP) and competition law in Africa. We do so by designing transformative initiatives and projects implemented across Africa. Our beneficiaries include African youths, academics, government officials, private sector professionals, creators, innovators, business leaders and entrepreneurs.

Established in 2019, we take pride in our impact in Sub-Saharan Africa and reach to thousands of young persons across Africa with targeted projects including the first-ever Annual IP International Debate Competition, our Career Development and Mentorship Scheme (CDMS), MIPLG Professional Development (PD) Series, IP Fellowship for Early Career Professionals, IP Awards Project.

We have sensitized over 500 children from rural or community schools in Africa on our IP for Kids Campaign, publishing IP training and learning materials in over 5 African languages for these outreaches. Our IP compendium is a one-stop shop for IP and related laws in African countries. The MIPLG library provides resource materials by industry experts around topical issues for personal training and development.

We are committed to building respect for creativity and innovation, making IP and Competition work for Africa. We are built for Africa by Africans.

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Mainstreaming IP in Nigeria: The Role of Stakeholders

By Lara Kayode,
Founder, O. Kayode & Co.

Nigeria stands at a defining moment in its innovation trajectory. Across our creative industries, technology ecosystem, manufacturing sector, and research institutions, we witness extraordinary ingenuity. From globally resonant music and fashion to fintech solutions transforming financial inclusion, from cutting edge design to research addressing local and regional challenges, our innovation economy continues to signal its strength as a national asset.

To fully unlock this potential, intellectual property (IP) must no longer be treated as a peripheral technical matter but as core economic infrastructure. IP enables diversification, incentivises investment, stimulates job creation, and strengthens global competitiveness. In an increasingly knowledge driven global economy, IP is central to value creation.

This imperative is amplified by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). As Africa advances toward deeper market integration, the movement of goods, services, digital content, and creative works requires certainty and trust. These, in turn, depend on enforceable IP rights. For Nigeria to lead and fully benefit from the continental single market, it must maintain a strong, efficient, coherent, and aligned IP ecosystem.

Mainstreaming IP requires a deliberate, cross-sectoral embedding of IP awareness, protection, and commercialisation. It involves treating IP as an asset class capable of being financed, licensed, franchised, exported, and scaled. It demands that creators and entrepreneurs incorporate IP considerations at inception; that regulators harmonise national systems with regional and international frameworks; that universities build robust commercialisation pipelines; that investors integrate IP due diligence into their assessment frameworks; and that the media actively shape public attitudes about ownership, originality, and value.

The public sector plays a foundational role in this transition. Policy alignment with international standards and continental frameworks must be strengthened. The country requires efficient registration processes, predictable enforcement, specialized IP adjudication mechanisms, IP-aware border protocols, and digital-first registries. Fiscal and non-fiscal incentives such as innovation grants, commercialization funds, and R&D tax credits can stimulate IP-driven growth. Above all, policy coherence is paramount. IP must interact seamlessly with trade, culture, education, industrial policy, and the digital economy to position Nigeria competitively within AfCFTA markets.

Creators and innovators must embrace IP as a strategic instrument rather than a corrective measure. Their portfolios should reflect their commercial models, whether through trademarks, patents, industrial designs, copyrights, related rights, or trade secrets. Through licensing, franchising, distribution, merchandising, and other commercial structures, IP becomes a pathway to revenue, scale, and continental expansion.



The legal and professional community has a responsibility to demystify IP and provide accessible advisory services across the value chain. Capacity building, pro bono initiatives, and support for both litigation and alternative dispute resolution are necessary for a modern, innovation-aligned IP ecosystem.

Academic and research institutions must play a more active role in commercialization by integrating IP and trade education into curricula, strengthening technology transfer offices, managing disclosures and protection processes, and incentivizing impact-oriented research outcomes.

The private sector can mainstream IP by embedding it into procurement, product development, branding, and mergers and acquisitions. Sector associations should drive standard-setting and coordinate collaborative enforcement, particularly as AfCFTA facilitates a greater flow of goods and digital content across borders.

Media and public awareness platforms constitute critical partners in shaping societal attitudes. By highlighting the economic significance of originality and discouraging piracy, the media can help shift behaviours and strengthen demand for legitimate products and services.

International partnerships with entities such as ECOWAS, ARIPO, and OAPI, as well as multilateral institutions, will remain essential in aligning standards, strengthening capacity, and modernising infrastructure. As AfCFTA's IP agenda continues to evolve, Nigeria must assume a leadership role that supports balanced rules promoting creativity, access, innovation, and trade.

With AfCFTA opening a unified African market, Nigeria has a unique opportunity to expand exports of creative and digital products; build regional brands supported by enforceable IP rights; attract capital through improved IP governance; empower MSMEs with accessible IP pathways; develop a regional hub for IP services and dispute resolution; and cultivate youth participation by embedding IP literacy within educational and innovation ecosystems.

To fully mainstream IP in Nigeria, the country must align policy, regulation, education, and enforcement; invest in institutional capacity; democratize IP knowledge for MSMEs and emerging creators; prioritise commercialisation; and strengthen cross-border cooperation. The IP Awards highlight the excellence already present in our ecosystem. Our task is to expand it by building systems that protect, platforms that enable, and partnerships that sustain growth.

To all awardees and nominees, I extend my sincere congratulations. Your contributions elevate our nation and inspire future generations. To every stakeholder within this ecosystem, your role is indispensable. When we protect creativity, we unlock prosperity. When we reward originality, we affirm dignity. When we mainstream IP across Nigeria and the continent, we secure our collective economic future.

Special Address by Prof. Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan

Distinguished guests, stakeholders, and proponents of innovation, Intellectual Property (IP) is no longer a peripheral legal concept; it is the cornerstone of the modern, knowledge-driven economy. In Nigeria, a nation brimming with creativity, ingenuity, and a rapidly expanding tech and entertainment sector, IP acts as the bridge between ideas and economic wealth.

Mainstreaming Intellectual Property means integrating IP awareness, protection, and commercialization into all levels of Nigerian society, from grassroots creators to large-scale industries and government policy-making. This address outlines the necessary shift from treating IP as an afterthought to positioning it as a core asset for national growth, and the crucial role that stakeholders must play in this transition.

Intellectual Property refers to creations of the mind: inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, symbols, names, and images used in commerce. Nigeria has updated its IP framework with the Copyright Act 2022, and ongoing reforms for Patents, Designs, and Trademarks Act. IP represents intangible property that can be owned, sold, licensed, or mortgaged. Protection is generally territorial, requiring registration within Nigeria to enforce rights against infringement. For trademarks and patents, the system operates on a "first to file" basis, emphasizing the urgency of registration.

The scope of IP in Nigeria covers various forms, all of which need to be mainstreamed: Copyright protects musical, literary, artistic works, films, and sound recordings (e.g., Nollywood, Music, Software). Patents protect new, inventive, and industrially applicable inventions. Trademarks safeguards brand names, logos, and slogans, facilitating consumer trust. Industrial Designs protects the aesthetic and ornamental aspects of a product. There are also emerging areas such as the protection of Trade Secrets, Geographical Indications, and Traditional Knowledge/Cultural Expressions.

Mainstreaming IP brings significant socio-economic benefits:

- **Economic Growth:** Moving away from oil reliance, IP-based assets drive innovation and economic diversification.
- **Revenue Generation for Creators:** Proper protection ensures that inventors and artists receive royalties and financial rewards for their work.
- **Foreign Investment & Tech Transfer:** Stronger IP enforcement attracts Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and facilitates technology transfer.
- **SME Growth:** Studies show SMEs that possess IP rights generate up to 68% more revenue.
- **Brand Reputation:** Protection guards against counterfeit goods, preserving brand value and goodwill.



The Role of Stakeholders in Mainstreaming IP requires a collective effort, with specific roles for key stakeholders:

- **The Government (Policy Makers & Regulators):** Must modernize the Trademarks, Patents, and Designs Registry, accelerate the automation of services, and enforce the Copyright Act 2022. They must also create a "single window" for IP management.
- **The Judiciary & Law Enforcement:** Need specialized training to handle IP disputes swiftly and effectively, as well as strict enforcement against piracy and counterfeiting.
- **Academic & Research Institutions:** Must establish Tech Transfer Offices (TTOs) to turn research into commercial products and incorporate IP in educational curricula.
- **Private Sector & Financial Institutions:** Should adopt IP-based financing, allowing firms to use patents or copyrights as collateral for loans.
- **Creatives & Innovators:** Must move away from the "first to market" mindset to "first to file" by proactively registering their IP assets.

To achieve this, we must adopt the following strategies:

1. **Massive Awareness Campaigns:** Educating the public, particularly SMEs, about the value of IP rights.
2. **Digitalization of IP Offices:** Complete automation of the Patents and Designs Registry and the Copyright Commission to prevent bottlenecks.
3. **Stronger Border Enforcement:** Cooperation between the Nigerian Customs Service and IP agencies to stop the influx of counterfeit goods.
4. **Capacity Building:** Continuous training for law enforcement agents (Police, NAFDAC, SON) on IP infringements.
5. **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Promoting mediation and arbitration for faster resolution of IP disputes.

Mainstreaming intellectual property is not an option; it is imperative for Nigeria's development. The tools are now in place, the laws are strengthening, and the policy framework is clearer. However, a law is only as strong as its enforcement and its understanding by the public.

Let us work together to protect, harness, and commercialize our intellectual assets.

Thank you.

Mainstreaming IP in Nigeria: The Role of Stakeholders

By Shafiu Adamu Yauri, *mni*
Director/Registrar of Trademarks.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMUNITY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

GOOD EVENING TO YOU ALL.....

I am pleased to warmly acknowledge and appreciate the organisers of this important gathering, **MIPLG – My Intellectual Property Law Guide**, for their sustained commitment to advancing intellectual property awareness, policy dialogue, and professional excellence within Nigeria's IP ecosystem.

On behalf of the Director and Registrar of Trademarks, I extend sincere appreciation to MIPLG for the honour of recognising and nominating him as an **IP Icon in Nigeria**, and for extending the privilege of being a **Distinguished Guest** at this important forum. This recognition reflects not only individual leadership, but also the collective institutional efforts toward strengthening intellectual property administration and reform in Nigeria.

The theme of today's engagement, "*Mainstreaming Intellectual Property in Nigeria: The Role of Stakeholders*," speaks directly to Nigeria's innovation trajectory, investment climate, and long-term economic competitiveness. Intellectual property has emerged as a strategic national asset, and its effective mainstreaming requires deliberate, coordinated collaboration among government institutions, IP professionals, innovators, the private sector, academia, and development partners.

It is in recognition of this shared responsibility that the Director and Registrar of Trademarks has prepared this address, highlighting the critical role stakeholders must play in deepening IP awareness, strengthening administration, and positioning Nigeria as a resilient, innovation-driven economy.

MAINSTREAMING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN NIGERIA: THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS

Intellectual Property (IP) has become a critical driver of innovation, competitiveness, investment attraction, and sustainable economic growth in modern economies. As Nigeria continues to diversify its economy beyond oil dependence, the protection, commercialization, and strategic use of IP assets—such as trademarks, patents, copyrights, and industrial designs—have assumed increasing national importance.

This paper examines the concept of **mainstreaming Intellectual Property in Nigeria**, defined as the systematic integration of IP into national economic planning, legal frameworks, education systems, business development strategies, and institutional reforms. It highlights the central role played by multiple stakeholders—including government institutions, policy bodies, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and academia—in embedding IP as a core component of Nigeria's development architecture.

BACKGROUND

The Intellectual Property covering trademarks, patents, copyrights, and industrial designs is a vital driver of modern, knowledge-based economies. Nigeria's creative industries, technology sector, and entrepreneurial landscape offer immense IP potential. However, the effective use of IP as a strategic economic asset has historically been constrained by outdated legal frameworks, limited functional awareness, weak enforcement mechanisms, and fragmented institutional coordination.

Recognizing these gaps, the Federal Government of Nigeria, in collaboration with stakeholders and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), developed the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS). The policy provides a unified national framework for strengthening IP governance, enhancing commercialization, and integrating IP into national development planning.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR ROLES:

Government and Policymakers: Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) are central to IP mainstreaming. Through the approval and implementation of NIPPS, government has demonstrated commitment to modernising IP laws, strengthening institutions, and embedding IP considerations into economic and industrial policies.



PEBEC AND EASE OF DOING BUSINESS REFORMS:

The Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) plays a strategic role by integrating IP protection into Nigeria's ease-of-doing-business reforms. PEBEC recognizes IP as a core business asset and economic enabler.

Key interventions include:

- Digitisation and automation of IP filing systems
- Reduction of processing timelines and procedural bottlenecks
- Standardization of IP processes and service benchmarks.
- Oversight of the ENAiO trademark automation platform
- These reforms have improved transparency, predictability, and investor confidence in Nigeria's IP system.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

International partners, particularly WIPO, support Nigeria's IP mainstreaming efforts through technical assistance, capacity building, policy advisory services, and stakeholder forums that promote alignment with global IP standards.

PRIVATE SECTOR AND INDUSTRY:

The private sector especially creative industries, technology startups, manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals relies on effective IP protection for brand security, innovation commercialization, and market competitiveness. Industry advocacy remains vital to sustaining reform momentum and ensuring commercially responsive IP administration.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACADEMIA:

Civil society organizations and academic institutions contribute through research, advocacy, training, and public awareness initiatives. Their role is critical in bridging knowledge gaps, promoting ethical IP use, and cultivating long-term respect for IP rights.

KEY CHALLENGES:

- 1.Despite ongoing reforms, Nigeria's IP ecosystem continues to face:
- 2.Limited functional IP knowledge among SMEs and individual creators.
- 3.Weak enforcement capacity against piracy and counterfeiting.
- 4.Fragmented institutional coordination and policy implementation gaps

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

To deepen IP mainstreaming, the following actions are recommended:

- 1.Strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue and reform monitoring.
- 2.Expand nationwide IP awareness and education programmes.
- 3.Accelerate legislative modernisation and institutional harmonization.
- 4.Promote public-private partnerships for IP commercialization and innovation support

CONCLUSION:

Mainstreaming Intellectual Property is essential to Nigeria's innovation agenda, economic diversification, and global competitiveness. While significant progress has been achieved through NIPPS and PEBEC-led reforms, sustained collaboration among government, international partners, private sector actors, civil society, and academia remains crucial.

By embedding IP into Nigeria's economic architecture, stakeholders can transform intellectual assets into engines of inclusive and sustainable national development.

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Meet the Organizing Committee



Chukwuemezie Charles Emejuo,
Executive Director, MIPLG



Oluwajoba Oloba
Co-Founder, The Nest



Joy Ilobun,
Chairperson, Organizing Committee



Faith Amarachi Okpara
Co-Chairperson



Amosa Shukurat
Nomination, Team Lead



Maryjane Unanka
Brochure, Team Lead



Emeka Kalu
Publicity, Team Lead



Izunna Amakwe
IP Awards Secretariat, Team Lead



Philip Nwosu
Logistics, Team Lead



Timothy Wisdom
Member



Chinyere Victory Okenwa
Member



James Olusola Titiloye
Member



Favour-Hafsa Chinyelum Eke
Member



Anyanwu Benedicta
Member



Adedokun Adedapo
Member



Mmesomachukwu Njoku
Member

Meet the Panel of Judges

Creativity Category



Lola Ojetola,
Creative Entrepreneur
and Legal Consultant



Olabode Akin,
Creative Director and
Digital Strategist



Oluwatayo akinyemi,
Founder, SOH
Entertainment and Jc T
Why Music Camp Talent
Executive, AFRIMA

Technology and Innovation Category



Lanre Fadire,
Digital Transformation
Specialist and Tech
Consultant



Chidera Muoka,
Media Strategist and Digital
Content Specialist



**Omoruyi Edoigiawerie
(Uyilaw),**
Founder, Edoigiawerie
and Company and Tech
Lawye

IP Practice Category



Marx Ikongbeh,
Principal Partner, Everlaw
Associates



**Beverley Agbakoba-
Onyejiana,**
Partner and Head of Sports,
Entertainment & Tech (SET),
Olisa Agbakoba Legal (OAL)



Prof Umar Bindir,
Former Director-General,
National Office for
Technology Acquisition
and Promotion (NOTAP)

Meet the Nomination Committees (Valiant Voices)

Creatives



Victor Ehiogu
Entertainment
Entrepreneur



Rita Anwarah
Business Transformation
and Creative Strategist,
Topcreed Business Consult



Ekpedeme Ufot
Founder, Get Creative
Money

Technology Innovation



**Victor Boyle-
Komolafe**
Founder and CEO
GIVO Africa



Samson Aligba
3x Founder and Product
Leader Desposits, Hyphen Fi,
MVP Skool



Michael Oscar Esio
Start-up Mentor,
People/Programs Co-
ordinator Africacomcade

IP Practice



Bentex Torlafia
IP Expert and Lecturer
North-Eastern University,
Gomber



Funmilayo Olowofeso
Senior Associate
Technological Patners



Boluwatife Sanya
Managing Partners
Paddle Solicitors

[HALL OF FAME] IP ICONS



Hon. Amb. Geoffrey K.J. Onyeama, CON



Prof. Adejoke Oyewumi,
Senior Lecturer at the
Department of Commercial
and Industrial Law, Faculty of
Law, University of Lagos



Dr. John O. Asein,
Director-General, Nigeria
Copyright Commission



Prof. Bankole Sodipo,
Senior Partner at G.O.
Sodipo & Co.



Dr. Dan-Azumi Mohammed,
Director General and CEO of
National Office for
Technology Acquisition and
Promotion



**Professor Adebambo
Adewopo, SAN,** Lecturer,
Nigerian Institute of
Advanced Legal Studies



Sandra Oyewole,
Partner, Olajide Oyewole
LLP



Dr. Shafiu Adamu Yauri,
Registrar of Trademarks,
Federal Ministry of
Industry, Trade and
Investment, Nigeria



**Engr. Umar B. Bindir,
PHD.** Secretary to the
State Government (SSG)
Adamawa State, Nigeria



Professor Ruth Okediji,
Professor of Law at
Harvard Law School and
Co-Director of the
Berkman Klein Center



Madam Stella Ezenduka,
Former Chief Registrar of
the Patents and Designs
Registry, Commercial Law
Department of the Federal
Ministry of Industry, Trade
and Investment in Nigeria

IP ICONS AWARD



Lara Kayode

Lara Kayode is the founder/managing partner of O. Kayode & Co, with offices in Lagos and Abuja. She was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1992 after studying law at the University of Buckingham. She obtained an LLM in Intellectual Property Law from the QMW College, University of London in 1994. A CEDR accredited mediator since 2005, she is a member of the Trademark Mediators at INTA and the panel of neutrals at the Lagos Multi door courthouse in Nigeria.

An active and former Board member of INTA, she has consistently served on various committees at INTA and is the current subcommittee chair person of the Unreal Campaign committee (MEASA) and Chair of the Global Advisory Council for Africa at INTA.



Prof. Muhammad Tawfiq Ladan

Prof. M. T. Ladan, Ph. D in law (1997), is a Professor of Law with 38 years working experience at the Faculty of Law, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; National Human Rights Commission Abuja (1997 - 1999); National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, Abuja (2017 - 2019); The immediate past Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (2019 - 2024).

Member, National Action Committee on the Implementation of the Agreement on African Continental Free Trade Area, inaugurated by President Buhari on 20 December 2019 to 2024.

Lead Facilitator of the Policy, Regulation and Law (PRL) Workstream of the National Action Committee on AfCFTA since 2019 and a member of the National Technical working Group on AfCFTA Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Trade Facilitation Project / Border Facilities and Utilities National Technical Working Group.

Technical Expert member of the National Expert working Group that reviewed the AfCFTA Protocols on IPR, investment, Competition, Digital Trade and Women /Youth, annexes to the Protocol on IPR and the draft-Regulation for the implementation of AfCFTA Protocol on Competition (2022 - 2025). With Specialization in comparative regional economic integration law, policy and practice; public international law relating to natural resources, energy, environment, climate change, human rights, gender, Security, humanitarian and Sustainable development law, policy and practice in Africa. With 25 years' experience as an independent expert and a lead technical expert in representing Nigeria at Governmental Experts meetings and Diplomatic Conferences at the UNEP Nairobi, UNICRI Turin, Italy, UNESCO Paris, France, and Ljubljana, Slovenia, as well as in the defence of Nigeria's Country human rights reports at the UN HQ in New York, USA and Geneva Switzerland, and in Banjul, Gambia at the African Human Rights Commission. And 23 years' experience in consultancy services at the national, regional and global levels for Nigerian federal and state ministries and agencies, and for the ECOWAS Commission, UNECA, UNICEF, ILO, UNHCR, UNDP and UNEP HQ in Nairobi.

Currently, providing advisory and technical services to the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Abuja; serving as the Pioneer Director, AfCFTA Law and Policy Division of the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, National Assembly, Abuja; as a member of AfCFTA HQ, Accra-Ghana, Task Force on IPR Protocol Annexes.

IP ICONS AWARD



Obi Asika

Obi Asika is a visionary leader, ecosystem builder, and a key architect of Nigeria's creative and cultural industries. For over three decades, he has championed the expansion of Nigeria's soft power, driving innovation, investment, and strategic collaborations across music, film, television, sports, tech, and culture. Mr Asika is the Director-General, National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) and Co-Chair of the UK-Nigeria co-working group for the Cultural and Creative Industries and through these various roles continues to push innovative solutions to drive Nigeria forward in these sectors.

Recognized by millions as a Judge on Nigerian Idol, Asika's true impact lies behind the scenes as a builder and advocate for Nigeria's creative economy. Before assuming public office, he founded The Omniverse, a multi-sector collaboration platform integrating storytelling, technology, and the creative industries to unlock economic opportunities.

As the founder of Storm 360/ Storm Records, he played a pivotal role in launching Nigeria's first wave of globally successful artists while pioneering major television productions, including Big Brother Nigeria, The Apprentice Africa, Dragons' Den Nigeria, and Naija Sings as Executive Producer. His influence extends to digital policy, sports, and media. He co-founded Social Media Week Lagos in 2012, Africa's largest new media and technology conference



Rt. Hon. Sanusi Garba Rikiji

Rt. Hon. Sanusi Garba Rikiji is a distinguished Nigerian statesman, institutional reform advocate, and seasoned parliamentarian with over two decades of leadership in public service. Currently serving as the Director-General and Chief Negotiator of the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN), he leads Nigeria's trade diplomacy and negotiations at bilateral, continental, and multilateral levels—championing the nation's strategic positioning in global value chains.

A trusted policymaker and former Speaker of the Zamfara State House of Assembly (2011–2019), Rikiji previously served as Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the House of Representatives (2019–2022), bringing robust experience in legislative diplomacy, public-private coordination, and executive-legislative synergy.

He holds a Master's degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy, and is widely respected for his ability to blend grassroots insight with high-level policy execution. With a legacy of service rooted in humility, inclusivity, and national interest, Rikiji continues to be a leading voice in repositioning Nigeria for global trade excellence and domestic prosperity.

IP ICONS AWARD



Lookman Durosinmi-Etti

Lookman Durosinmi-Etti is the founding force behind Jackson, Etti & Edu, establishing a Tier 1 legacy in Intellectual Property. With decades of experience in Real Estate, Commercial, and IP Law, he provides strategic, business-driven legal solutions, combining deep legal expertise with a clear understanding of client needs.

Lookman began his career at Bentley, Edu & Co. in 1984, becoming a partner in 1988. Following the firm's integration with Irving & Bonnar, he served as Managing Partner of Bentley, Edu & Co., while also acting as a partner at Irving & Bonnar. In 1996, he co-founded Etti, Edu & Co., which evolved into Jackson, Etti & Edu after a merger with Norman, Jackson Steele & Co.

A recognized "Doyen" in Intellectual Property, Lookman has guided the firm to Tier 1 status for nearly two decades. He is a WIPO Arbitrator, a former UNDP Consultant on IP, and a member of leading IP organizations including INTA, ITMA, FICPI, and AIPPI. His practice covers Commercial Litigation, IP enforcement, anti-counterfeiting, and complex trademark, patent, and copyright matters, including pioneering the use of Anton Piller and Roving Anton Piller Orders in Nigeria.

Lookman has advised on numerous high-profile transactions in Nigeria and internationally, including a \$70 million luxury residential development in Abuja. He serves as Director of Orange Island Development Company (OIDC) and Fairways & Greens Limited, contributing to major real estate and tourism projects in Lagos.

He is consistently featured in Who's Who Legal and Managing Intellectual Property and has authored numerous papers and articles on Intellectual Property law.

Award Categories

Fintech Award
HealthTech Award
LegalTech Award
Social Impact Award
Innovator Award
Innovative Startup Award
EdTech Award
AgriTech Award
Sustainability Award
Creative Animator of the Year Award
Upcycling Artist of the Year Award
Literary Artist of the Year Award
Sound Engineer of the Year Award
Voice Over Artist of the Year Award
Sports Broadcasting Award
Special Effects Makeup Artist of the Year Award
Indigenous Heritage Award
IP Podcast of the Year Award
IP Podcast of the Year Award
IP Capacity Development
IP Club of the Year
IP Lawyer of the Year Award
IP Policy Expert of the Year Award
Startup Lawyer of the Year Award
IP Educator of the Year Award
Copyright Officer of the Year Award
Trademark Officer of the Year Award
IP Lecturer of the Year Award
Patents and Designs Officer of the Year Award
IP Legal Rising Star Award

Nominees and Winners spotlight



Fintech Award



Interswitch

HealthTech Award



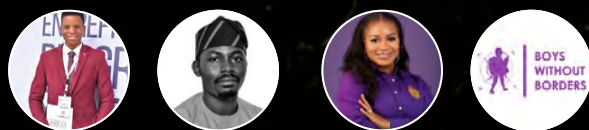
Iyewo medical
outreach

LegalTech Award



LawPavilion

Social Impact Award



Henry Lamba
Danwawo – CEO,
Schrödinger
Technologies Ltd

Nominees and Winners spotlight



Innovator Award



Ejikeme Patrick
Nwosu – CEO,
Lumos
Laboratories
Nigeria Limited

Innovative Startup Award



GreenBii
Technologies

EdTech Award



AltSchool Africa

AgriTech Award



Releaf Earth

Nominees and Winners spotlight



Sustainability Award



Planet 3R

Creative Animator Award



UTRICLE
Studios

Upcycling Artist Award



Ajayi Toyeeb

Literary Artist Award



Damilare Kuku

Nominees and Winners spotlight



Sound Engineer Award



Vtek

Voice Over Artist Award



Tolulope
Kolade

Sports Broadcasting Award



Onyinyechi
Ogu-Obaroh

Special Effects Makeup Artist Award



Onilogbo
Hakeem

Nominees and Winners spotlight



Indigenous Heritage Award



Nike Art
Gallery

IP Podcast Award



Rita Anwiri
Chindah
(IP Series)

IP Capacity Development Award



JIIPCC

IP Club Award



IPC,
Unilorin

Nominees and Winners spotlight



IP Lawyer Award



Ifeanyi
Okonkwo

IP Policy Expert Award



Sand Mba Kalu

Startup Lawyer Award



Emmanuel
Agherario

IP Educator Award



Shukurat
Amosa

Nominees and Winners spotlight

Copyright Officer Award



Collins Nweke

Trademark Officer Award



Temitope
Ogubanjo

IP Lecturer Award



Prof. Ayoyemi
Lawal-Arowolo

Patents and Designs Officer Award



Onyekachi
Eriobu-Aniede

Nominees and Winners spotlight

IP Legal Rising Star Award



Gesiye-Emi
Emiemokumo

IP for Kids is a project dedicated, with love, to the African child.

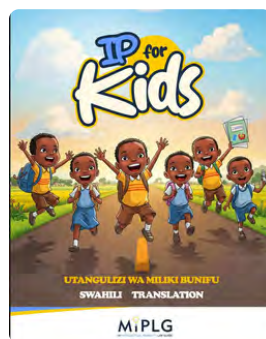
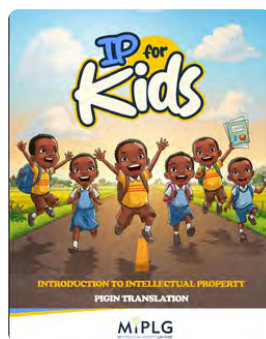
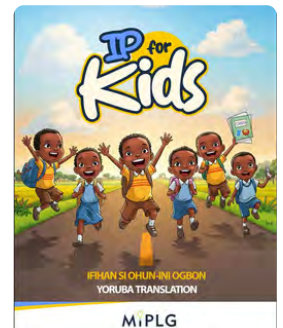
With a keen interest for the development of the African Child, MIPLG launched the IP for Kids Campaign. Our first outreach on this campaign was held on the 6th of December 2021 in Sokoto, Nigeria. On the 21st of February 2025, we published translations of the IP for Kids Book into 5 African Languages, to support IP education in native languages. This project has sensitized over 2000 children in Nigeria since 2021.

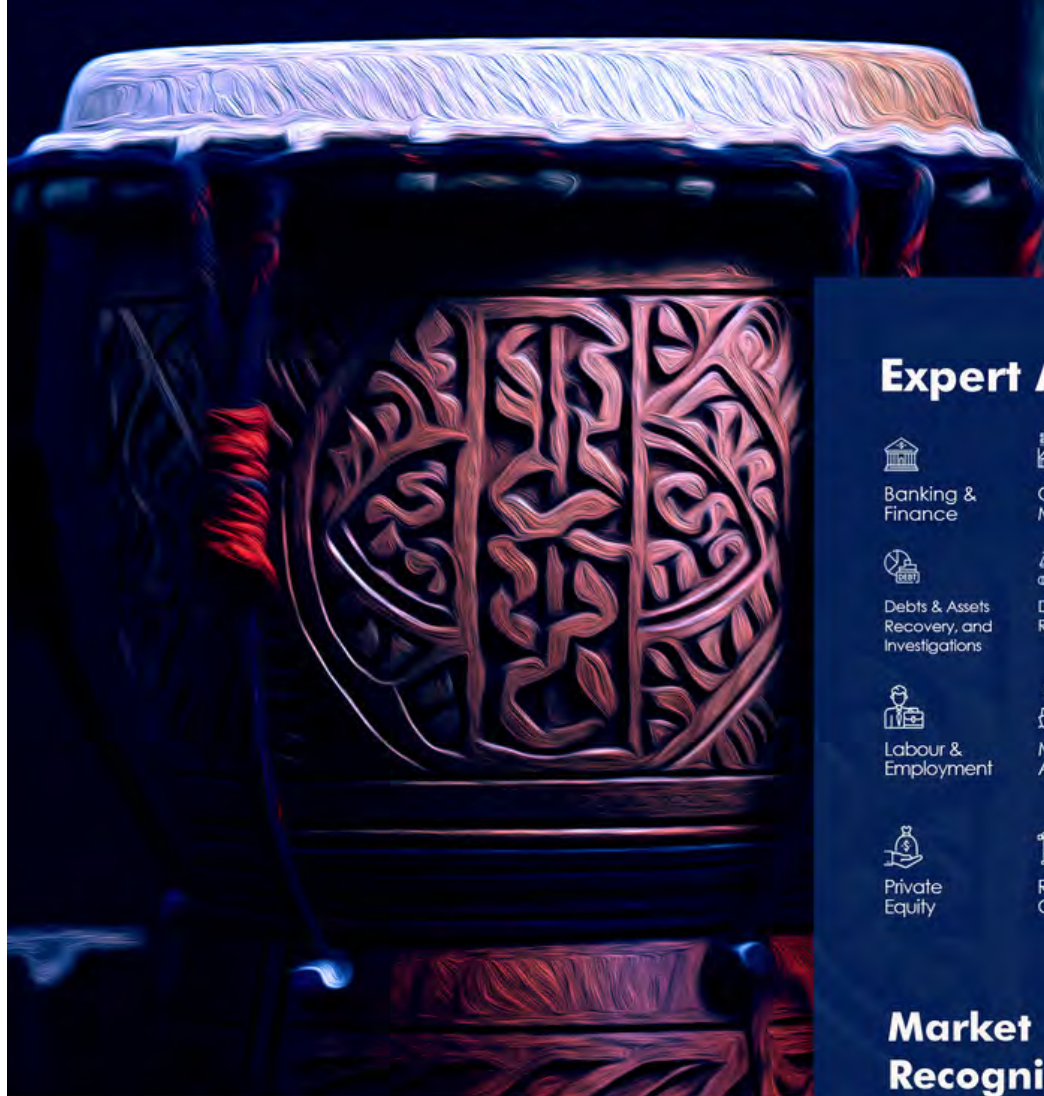
IP for Kids is developed to support efforts to deliberately inculcate a culture of creativity and innovation in the African child. With the support of teachers, instructors, parents and guardians, these materials teach IP at a basic and relatable level for kids and include activities to support active learning. This campaign creates a ripple effect in our economies. The result will be increased creativity and innovation in Africa and respect for intellectual properties across sectors.

With translations into native languages, we not only sensitise our children, we also teach their tutors and donate copies of the learning material in the school libraries. As an organisation, we remain committed to our impact in the area of IP in Africa.

We appreciate the concerted efforts of all our partners. For partnerships and collaborations, please contact us

contact@myiplawguide.com
+2347030090390 (WhatsApp)





Expert Areas



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Company Secretarial



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Debts & Assets Recovery, and Investigations



Dispute Resolution



Oil & Gas and Energy



Immigration



Labour & Employment



Maritime & Aviation



Insolvency & Corporate Restructuring



Intellectual Property



Private Equity



Real Estate & Construction



Tax



Technology, Media & Entertainment

Market Recognition

We are proud of the external recognition our Firm and its Lawyers have received through international awards, accolades, and independent surveys, such as, IFLR1000 (2021, 2022, 2023), Managing IP Impact Case of the Year EMEA (2023), WTR 1000 Ranked Firm, WTR 1000 Individual Rankings, Legal500 Ranking, IAM 300 and IAM 1000 Recognized Leader.

Your Trusted Guide

At Stren & Blan Partners, we are providing regional legal solutions that have global implications and remain at the forefront of proactive service delivery that ensures our client's businesses are secured regardless of industry.

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iP AWARDS

MAINSTREAMING IP IN NIGERIA: THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS



OLAJIDE OYEWOLE LLJ

