



# Quarterly IP Newsletter

April – June 2025

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# Regulatory Updates



## Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment

The Federal Government has unveiled plans to restructure Nigeria's Trademark Registry and reform the country's intellectual property (IP) laws and regulations. According to Dr. Jumoke Oduwale, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, the initiative aims to establish a National IP Policy that drives innovation, attracts investment, and enhance Nigeria's global competitiveness.

Addressing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Minister assured that Nigeria has implemented trade safeguards to prevent dumping while advancing its export agenda. Ongoing talks with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to establish a national carbon market and the creation of the Industrial Revolution Work Group to tackle unfair competition and improve energy access for manufacturers was also discussed.

## WIPO Collaborates with the Nigerian Judiciary to Strengthen IP Adjudication Capacity

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in collaboration with the National Judicial Institute (NJI), hosted a judicial workshop from 2nd to 3rd April 2025 in Abuja, aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Nigerian judiciary to adjudicate intellectual property (IP) cases. The workshop brought

together 21 Judges from the Federal High Court and other key stakeholders in the IP ecosystem. This initiative marks a significant step in ongoing efforts to strengthen the judiciary's expertise in handling complex IP matters.

## Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC)

### i. NCC Holds Capacity Building Training for Staff Members

The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) conducted a one-day in-house capacity-building programme for officers on Grade Levels 08–15. The training, aimed at enhancing professional writing and communication skills, was declared open by the Director-General, Dr. John Asein. He highlighted the importance of equipping staff to effectively engage with high-level stakeholders and contribute to the Commission's mandates. Sessions were delivered by former NCC Directors and subject-matter experts, covering topics such as proposal writing, copyright law fundamentals, financial regulations, and internal administrative processes. Staff were encouraged to apply the knowledge practically and pursue continuous learning.

### ii. 2025 World Intellectual Property Day: NCC Sensitizes Abuja Residents

As part of the 2025 World Intellectual Property Day celebrations, the NCC Headquarters staff conducted a sensitisation campaign on 28th April 2025 at the Federal Secretariat Complex, Abuja. The outreach highlighted the importance of copyright and the protection of creators' rights. In a goodwill message, DG NCC Dr. John Asein, reiterated the global relevance of Nigerian music and reiterated the Commission's commitment to ensuring fair compensation for creators. He announced the revision of the Collective Management Regulations and the Commission's designation under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2022, which empowers NCC to intensify its fight against online piracy.



### iii. NCC, IFPI and RELPI Hold Strategic Session on Digital Rights Enforcement

The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) hosted a strategic interactive session with the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) and the Record Labels Proprietors Initiative (RELPI). The session focused on implementing digital rights provisions under the Copyright Act. Stakeholders called for more commitment to enforcement in Nigeria's music industry, recognising the urgent need to address digital piracy and strengthen the ecosystem for royalty collection and protection of rights holders. The meeting reaffirmed NCC's position as a key enabler of digital compliance and transparency in copyright enforcement.

### iv. NCC and Office for Nigerian Digital Innovation to Foster Creativity and Innovation

The NCC and the Office for Nigerian Digital Innovation (ONDI), under the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), are set to collaborate in fostering creativity and innovation in Nigeria's digital economy. This was disclosed during a courtesy visit by ONDI officials to the NCC Headquarters.

Both agencies discussed strategic areas of cooperation aimed at supporting digital creatives, strengthening copyright awareness in the tech space, and facilitating legal safeguards for intellectual property in the digital environment. The partnership seeks to empower creators and promote sustainable digital innovation.

### v. NCC Warns DJs Against Unlicensed Music Use

The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) issued an Advisory on June 2, 2025, warning that DJs who publicly perform music without proper authorisation are in breach of the Copyright Act, 2022. Such unauthorised use amounts to copyright infringement and attracts penalties of at least ₦1,000,000 or a minimum five-year prison term. To support compliance, the Advisory referenced a licensing arrangement between the Deejays Association of Nigeria (DJAN) and the Musical Copyright Society Nigeria (MCSN), which permits DJs to remit applicable royalties through DJAN based on a negotiated tariff. The initiative aims to simplify licensing, promote legal use of music, and ensure fair compensation for right holders.

## Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)

### SON Engages Stakeholders in Asaba to Champion Quality Standards

Committed to combatting the influx of fake, inferior and substandard products in Nigeria, the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON)

convened a crucial sensitization workshop in Asaba on Friday, May 9th, 2025. The forum aimed to galvanise stakeholders from diverse sectors on the critical importance of upholding quality standards through self-regulation and ethical practices.

## National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)

### i. NAFDAC Counterfeit & Illegal Products Alerts

As part of the ongoing commitment to IP protection and consumer safety, NAFDAC issued certain public alerts on the following:

- Falsified Batches of Healmoxy Capsules 500mg found in Cameroon and Central African Republic (CAR).
- Counterfeit/Falsified Rosprazole (Rabeprazole Injection) 20mg; and
- Declaration of Over 100 Medications as Substandard by India Authorities.

### ii. NAFDAC Intensifies Crackdown on Counterfeit Drugs in Major Open Drug Markets

NAFDAC conducted enforcement raids across

three major Open Drug Markets, Idumota, Lagos State; Aba, Abia State and Onitsha, Anambra State seizing banned, expired, substandard, and falsified narcotic medicines worth over ₦1 trillion. The affected warehouses and shops failed to meet Good Storage and Distribution Practices and were not registered with the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria. The operation was intelligence-driven and aimed at curbing the widespread distribution of dangerous and unregistered pharmaceutical products, especially in high-risk markets. Sanctions were imposed in line with gazetted provisions but were later reduced following appeals from traders. The markets were subsequently reopened with over 2,500 traders resuming business operations after fulfilling regulatory conditions.



## Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC)

### **i. FCCPC Inaugurates Committee to Develop Digital Traceability Portal to Curb Counterfeit Goods**

On June 4, 2025, the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) inaugurated a Joint Inter-Agency Committee to develop a Digital Traceability Portal to

enhance product authentication and supply chain transparency by tackling counterfeit goods. Through the Traceability Portal, products will be assigned unique QR codes which enable consumers, retailers, manufacturers, and regulators to verify authenticity, track origin, and ensure end-to-end product traceability.

## Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy

### **i. Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy Launches \$200 Million Creative Fund**

The Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy has launched a \$200 million Creative Economy Development Fund, with \$300 million in additional investment commitments. Managed by AfreximBank, the Fund will support businesses in film, music,

fashion, and tourism. Key projects include the Abuja Creative City Project, Creative Hubs, and a Global Event Arena. The Ministry is also working with stakeholders to develop policies that integrate arts and culture into national economic planning. Reforms include a new Monetary and Credit Policy, finalisation of a National IP Policy, and reviews of tourism and cultural policies. A policy on incentives for the creative sector is also underway.



# Legislation and Case Law Updates



## Proceeds of Crime (Designation of Nigerian Copyright Commission as a Relevant Organisation) Order, 2025

The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) has been designated as a Relevant Organisation under the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act, 2022 (the Act) by a 2025 Order. This empowers the NCC to trace, seize, and recover assets linked to copyright offences even without a criminal conviction.

The Commission may now manage forfeited assets, appoint private managers, maintain a property database, and initiate legal proceedings related to recovered property. All

proceeds are to be paid into the Central Bank's Confiscated and Forfeited Properties Account.

Notably, the Act also allows the President, with Federal Executive Council approval, to authorise compensation for right holders and creators who suffer significant financial losses. This broadens enforcement options and improves access to restitution for rights holders.

## Collective Management Regulations, 2025

### **i. Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy Launches \$200 Million Creative Fund**

The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) has issued the Collective Management Regulations, 2025, introducing major reforms to improve transparency and accountability among Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) in Nigeria.

Under the new framework, all CMOs must reapply for licensing within 12 months. The Regulations require separate royalty accounts, a trust-based holding account for unallocated royalties (held for seven years), and stricter annual reporting, including audited financials,

royalty distributions, administrative costs, and officer remuneration.

These reforms aim to protect right holders' earnings, restore confidence in CMOs and bring Nigeria's system in line with international standards. Administrative deductions are now capped at 30 percent, subject to NCC and General Assembly approval, while royalty distributions must be made within three months after the end of the financial year, except where justified. The NCC may also appoint independent auditors where financial irregularities are suspected. These reforms aim to protect right holders' earnings, restore confidence in CMOs, and bring Nigeria's system in line with international standards.

## Ferring B.V. v. Prisma Holdings Limited, Opposition No. NG/TM/O/2024/031

The dispute arose when Prisma Holdings Limited (the Applicant) applied to register CORTIMINE for pharmaceutical products in Class 5. On behalf of Ferring B.V., (the Opponent) Stren & Blan Partners filed a Notice of Opposition, asserting that the mark was confusingly similar (both visually and phonetically) to the Opponent's earlier registered mark, CORTIMENT registered in the same class. Relying on Sections 2, 5, 6, 11, 13,

and 22 of the Trade Marks Act, the Opponent contended that the Applicant's proposed mark was likely to deceive or cause confusion among consumers, thereby infringing our client's exclusive statutory rights.

In its Written Address, the Applicant advanced several arguments, which was countered by the Opponent in a Reply Brief.





Firstly, the Applicant claimed that the prefix “CORTI” is a common or generic term in the pharmaceutical industry, and thus incapable of conferring distinctiveness. The Applicant also sought to dissect the marks into components, suggesting that CORTIMINE and CORTIMENT fundamentally different. In response, the Opponent invoked the well-established anti-dissection principle in trademark law, emphasizing that marks must be assessed as a whole rather than in fragmented parts. The argument canvassed was that even if “CORTI” refers generically to corticosteroids, the entirety of CORTIMENT remains inherently distinctive. The Tribunal was persuaded by the argument that the overall commercial impression governs the assessment of similarity.

Secondly, The Applicant argued that confusion was unlikely since the products are prescribed by medical professionals and serve different therapeutic purposes. The Opponent however demonstrated that the relevant test considers the perception of the average consumer of ordinary intelligence, not the specialized knowledge of healthcare providers. Moreover, pharmaceutical products are often discussed and recalled by patients themselves, who may have imperfect recollection. Applying the principle of imperfect recollection, the Opponent argued that CORTIMINE and CORTIMENT are sufficiently similar to mislead consumers, particularly given their registration in the same class and their marketing through similar channels.

Thirdly, The Applicant asserted a claim of honest concurrent use, arguing entitlement to registration alongside the prior mark. This was successfully rebutted by the Opponent where its prior and continuous use of CORTIMENT was established, underscoring the well-known status of the mark in the pharmaceutical market. Relying on statutory provisions, the Opponent contended that such claims cannot displace an existing registered right where there is evidence of prior use and likelihood of confusion.

After considering both parties’ submissions, the Tribunal delivered a reasoned ruling in favour of the Opponent; Ferring B.V. It held that the registration of CORTIMINE violated Section 11 and 13 of the Trade Marks Act by infringing upon the exclusive rights conferred by the earlier registration of CORTIMENT. The Tribunal emphasised that the marks were both visually and phonetically similar and that their coexistence in the pharmaceutical sector would likely cause consumer confusion. Recognising the serious implications for public safety and brand integrity in the health sector, the Tribunal concluded that the acceptance of CORTIMINE was made in error. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 22 of the Trade Marks Act, the Tribunal ordered the withdrawal and cancellation of the CORTIMINE application.

This decision highlights fundamental principles of Nigerian trade mark law, confirming that marks incorporating common elements may nonetheless attain distinctiveness when viewed in their entirety. It

reinforces the rigorous protection afforded to prior registered marks, particularly in sensitive sectors such as pharmaceuticals, where the risk of confusion has direct public health implications. The ruling also highlights the stringent threshold for claims of honest concurrent use, which must be supported by compelling evidence to overcome prior registrations.

The outcome not only safeguarded our client’s brand integrity and market position in Nigeria but also serves as a significant precedent for trademark owners in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries.

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# Updates from Other Jurisdictions



# African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

ARIPO Strengthens Diplomatic Engagement to Promote IP Development. On 6 June 2025, ARIPO held its second ambassadors engagement event in Zimbabwe, bringing together diplomatic representatives from member and potential member states. The gathering emphasized the critical role of IP in

driving Africa’s economic development, innovation, and sustainability goals. ARIPO reaffirmed its commitment to supporting member states in building robust IP systems that encourage creativity, investment, and technology transfer.

# Organisation Africaine De La Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI)

OAPI and RAMPI Join Forces to Enhance IP Enforcement On 20 March 2025, OAPI signed a memorandum of understanding with the Network of Intellectual Property Judges (RAMPI). This partnership aims to improve judicial capacity across OAPI member states by

providing specialized training and resources for IP litigation. The collaboration seeks to enhance enforcement mechanisms and ensure fair and consistent adjudication of IP rights disputes.

## Kenya

### i. Kenya Strengthens IP Access with Utility Models for Innovators

Kenya’s IP landscape offers a unique opportunity for inventors and SMEs through utility models. Unlike traditional patents, utility models provide protection for incremental innovations with a faster, less expensive registration process. Under the Industrial Property Act, Cap 509, utility models serve as a practical option for innovators who may not meet the strict inventiveness standards required for patents. This encourages wider protection of technical solutions, enabling more inclusive innovation within the Kenyan economy. By utilizing utility models, inventors can secure their technical innovations efficiently, enhancing competitiveness and attracting investment.

### ii. Consolidation Plan towards a Unified Intellectual Property Agency in Kenya

The Kenyan Government has proposed an ambitious plan to consolidate the country’s intellectual property regulatory bodies. The Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), the Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO), and the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) are set to be merged into a single agency. This reform aims to streamline operations, reduce bureaucratic overlap, and improve the enforcement of IP rights. While the merger is still in the planning stages and yet to receive legislative backing, it signals Kenya’s commitment to modernizing its IP governance and aligning it with best global practices.

### iii. Enhancing Innovation through IP Commercialization Initiatives

In April 2025, the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) partnered with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) to hold a forum focused on the commercialization of intellectual property.

The event underscored the critical role of IP in transforming innovations into market-ready products and services. Discussions highlighted strategies to protect IP rights while fostering collaboration between academia and industry, thereby accelerating the translation of research into economic growth and job creation.

### iv. Kenya and Uganda Launch AI-Powered Bleep App to Combat Counterfeits

In a significant regional collaboration, the Anti-Counterfeit Authorities of Kenya and Uganda jointly launched the Bleep App, an artificial intelligence-powered product authentication platform developed by tech firm Cypheme. The app enables consumers and enforcement officials to verify the authenticity of goods instantly, helping to combat the widespread issue of counterfeit products in East African markets. This technological innovation strengthens market surveillance, protects consumers, and promotes legitimate trade, exemplifying how AI can be harnessed for effective IP enforcement.



## Ghana

### **i. Ghana Champions IP Reform at World IP Day Forum**

Ghana Champions IP Reform at World IP Day Forum. At the inaugural Create for Pay Symposium in Accra, over 250 creatives, IP experts, and policymakers gathered to discuss strengthening IP protection and commercial opportunities in Ghana's creative sector.

Discussions emphasised using IP as a tool for sustainable enterprise. Panels explored digital licensing, metadata, and the role of legal literacy in monetising creative works. The event saw participation from judges, lawmakers, and industry stakeholders, with calls for accelerated IP registration, regional registries, and policy reforms to enhance cross-border collaboration.

### **ii. EUIPO Strengthens SME IP Engagement at EU-Ghana Business Forum**

At the 3rd EU-Ghana Business Forum, the EUIPO, through the Africa IP SME Helpdesk, led a breakout session on practical IP strategies for SMEs.

Discussions covered IP registration, preventive protection, and IP enforcement as tools for innovation and investment readiness.

EUIPO also offered support at the Helpdesk stand, reinforcing its SME engagement in Africa.

### **iii. Ghana Set to Establish Industrial Property Office Through New IP Bill**

The Ghanaian Parliament is preparing to introduce several new bills aimed at strengthening the financial sector, reforming legal frameworks, and encouraging investment. Among these is the long-anticipated Ghana Industrial Property Office Bill, which proposes the creation of a dedicated Ghana Industrial Property Office (GHIPO). Once established, GHIPO will be responsible for the administration and regulation of key intellectual property (IP) rights in Ghana, including patents, trade marks, industrial designs, plant varieties, and geographical indications. The Bill represents a significant step towards modernising Ghana's IP infrastructure and aligning it with international best practices.

## Malawi

### **i. Malawian Delegation Engages with ARIPO to Strengthen IP Framework**

A Malawian delegation recently visited the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe, to discuss ongoing efforts to enhance Malawi's IP legal framework. The delegation highlighted Malawi's recent legislative initiatives aimed at establishing a semi-autonomous IP office. ARIPO pledged to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to ensure effective implementation and integration within the regional IP system.

### **ii. Malawi Parliament Enacts Key Legislation to Boost IP Protection**

On 1 April 2025, the Malawi Parliament passed two landmark bills focused on improving the country's IP governance. Bill No. 1 of 2025 established the Companies, Registrations, and Intellectual Properties Centre, centralizing business and IP registrations. Bill No. 2 of 2025

amended existing copyright laws to better align Malawi with international IP standards. These legislative milestones mark a significant step forward in creating a more coherent and robust IP framework supportive of innovation and creative industries.

### **iii. Preservation of Cultural Heritage through Copyright Society of Malawi Initiative**

The Copyright Society of Malawi (COSOMA) launched a heritage hub in Kwenje Village, Dowa district, funded through the Copyright Fund. This facility aims to safeguard Malawi's rich cultural traditions by providing a

dedicated space for cultural expression such as traditional dancing and singing. The initiative has received positive reception from local communities and leaders, enhancing cultural pride while ensuring intellectual property protections for traditional knowledge and folklore.



## Mauritius

### Mauritius Joins ARIPO’s Patent Harare Protocol

On 27 May 2025, Mauritius officially acceded to the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization’s (ARIPO) Harare Protocol on patents, utility models, and industrial designs. The accession, which becomes effective on 27 August 2025, enables Mauritian residents and

nationals to file patent applications through ARIPO’s regional system. This move marks a critical milestone in Mauritius’s IP strategy, facilitating greater access to patent protection within the region. However, Mauritius has yet to join the Banjul Protocol on trademarks, indicating a gradual approach to full regional integration.

## Togo

### Togo Registers Its First Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)

On 3 April 2025, in a landmark achievement for local agricultural products, Togo officially registered Kovié rice as its first protected Geographical Indication (PGI) on 3 April 2025 under the OAPI framework. The PGI status

safeguards the unique qualities and reputation of Kovié rice linked to its geographical origin. This protection not only preserves local heritage but also boosts the product’s marketability, supporting economic development and enhancing farmers’ livelihoods through improved recognition.

## Liberia

### National Intellectual Property Conference Highlights IP’s Role in Development

In celebration of World Intellectual Property Day, Liberia hosted a National Intellectual Property Conference focused on the strategic importance of IP for national development. The conference featured key government officials

and stakeholders, culminating in an announcement by the President to convene a National Intellectual Property Summit. This upcoming summit aims to engage diverse stakeholders in crafting policies that leverage IP rights to foster innovation, economic growth, and competitiveness.

## Senegal

### Senegal Celebrates Innovation Success at Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions

A twelve-member delegation from Senegal comprising researchers, students, and inventors showcased remarkable innovations at the 50th Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions, held from 9 to 12 April 2025. Their

exhibits included low-cost medical devices and environmentally sustainable packaging solutions, earning several awards and international recognition. This achievement underscores Senegal’s growing role as a hub of innovation within Africa and highlights the country’s commitment to supporting inventors and research.

## Tunisia

### ii. WIPO Director General Supports Tunisia’s IP Development Strategy

During a recent visit to Tunisia, WIPO Director General Daren Tang met with key government officials to discuss Tunisia’s ongoing efforts to enhance its IP system. As part of the visit, WIPO

launched a project aimed at supporting 40 female artisans in the Sfax region through capacity building and market access initiatives. This partnership highlights international support for Tunisia’s IP development as a driver of inclusive economic growth.



## Mauritius

### ii. Tunisia Develops National Plan to Combat Counterfeiting

Tunisia’s National Anti-Counterfeiting Council announced plans to develop a comprehensive national action plan designed to strengthen

the country’s legal and institutional frameworks against counterfeit goods. This initiative aims to protect consumers, safeguard legitimate businesses, and uphold the integrity of Tunisian products in domestic and international markets.

## Egypt

### Establishment of the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EGIPA)

The Egyptian Government has taken a significant step in consolidating its IP administration by establishing the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EGIPA) under the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology. EGIPA unifies various IP offices

responsible for patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyrights, and plant variety protections.

This integrated approach is expected to improve efficiency, coordination, and service delivery to innovators and rights holders across Egypt.

## Morocco

### i. Morocco Maintains Leading IP Position in Africa and the Arab Region

Morocco continues to lead IP protection and innovation on the African continent and in the Arab region. According to the 2025 International IP Index, Morocco ranks 22nd globally with a score of 59.21, slightly down from 62.76 in 2024. This position reflects the country’s strong IP infrastructure, legal frameworks, and commitment to fostering innovation as a key driver of economic development.

### ii. Moroccan Customs Administration Collaborates with H&H IP Law to Enhance Anti-Counterfeiting.

The Moroccan Customs Administration recently partnered with H&H IP Law to conduct a specialized two-day training program for customs officers. The training focused on equipping officers with the skills needed to detect and intercept counterfeit goods at the country’s borders. This capacity-building initiative is critical to safeguarding Morocco’s trade integrity and protecting consumers from substandard and illegal products.

## Uganda

### Establishment of Directorate of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights

In recognition of the importance of copyright protection, Uganda recently established the Directorate of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights within the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB). Comprising 23 officials, the

Directorate is tasked with overseeing the administration and enforcement of copyright laws. Its formation reflects Uganda’s commitment to strengthening its copyright regime, protecting creators’ rights, and fostering a vibrant creative industry capable of contributing to national development.



# African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

## Negotiations Begin on Intellectual Property Annexes under AfCFTA

From 7 to 18 April 2025, the AfCFTA Secretariat convened in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to initiate formal negotiations on annexes related to IP rights within the African Continental Free Trade

Agreement. These negotiations are expected to establish harmonized IP standards and enforcement mechanisms to facilitate intra-African trade, investment, and innovation while balancing protection for rights holders and public interests.





# News About The Firm



- A. Stren & Blan Partners has been nominated in the “Innovation in ESG” category at the 2025 African Legal Technology & Innovation Awards, in recognition of the Firm’s work in advancing ESG standards through legal advisory and policy engagement, particularly in the energy and finance sectors.
- B. Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, was recognised as a Recommended Individual in the 2025 edition of the IAM Patent 1000, alongside our Senior Associate, Omonefe Irabor-Benson; and Associates Emmanuel Ughanze and Oluchukwu Nwakor. This recognition reflects the Firm’s deep expertise in patent strategy, prosecution, and enforcement across innovation-driven sectors.
- C. Our Partner, Amala Umeike, represented Nigeria as part of the delegation from the Business Recovery and Insolvency Practitioners Association of Nigeria (BRIPAN) at the 66th session of the UNCITRAL: United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Working Group V (Insolvency Law), held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- D. Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, represented the Firm at the INTA 2025 Annual Meeting held in San Diego, where he engaged with global IP leaders and contributed to conversations shaping the future of trademark law.
- E. Our Partner, Amala Umeike, participated as a panellist at the 2025 London International Disputes Week (LIDW), offering contributions to the session on “Avoiding and Managing Contract Disputes in Africa.”
- F. Our Partner, Ozioma Agu, attended the 40th International Bar Association International Financial Law Conference in Oslo, Norway, engaging with global leaders on developments in banking, cross-border finance, and ESG regulation.
- G. Our Team Lead, Francisca Igboanugo, represented the Firm at the 23rd African Business Summit held in London, contributing to dialogues around policy and sustainable investment across Africa.
- H. Stren & Blan Partners served as independent transaction advisors in a special situations and ownership reversion mandate involving Century Energy Services Limited, with a cross-functional team led by our Partner, Ozioma Agu and supported by Francisca Igboanugo, Sesugh Famave, Chizoba Anyaeji, Chizitereihe Oti, Stanley Umezuruike, Oghenemega Igbru, Babatunde Oyewole, and David Olajide.
- I. Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, alongside Adewale Akande, Amobi Ezeaku, Daniel Damola, and Chizoba Anyaeji, spoke at the Firm’s Sport’s webinar themed Unlocking Economic Potential Through Football, moderated by our Associate, Stanley Umezuruike.
- J. Our Team Lead, Francisca Igboanugo, attended the 2025 Africa Tech Summit London at the London Stock Exchange on the 6th of June 2025, engaging in discussions on regulatory and investment trends in the continent’s digital economy.
- K. Our Team Lead, Marvis Oduogu, was a speaker at the 2025 BusinessDay Manufacturing Conference in Lagos, addressing key legal and commercial issues for sustainable growth in Nigeria’s manufacturing sector.
- L. In celebration of World IP Day 2025, the Firm hosted a clinic themed IP Tune-Up: A Law Clinic for Artists & Producers. The clinic featured a panel discussion with our Senior Associate, Omonefe Irabor-Benson, alongside Lynda Alphaeus (Nigerian Copyright Commission), Amanda Uzoagba (Mdundo), and Joseph-Dike Abiagom (Aristokrat Records).
- M. Our Senior Associate, Omonefe Irabor-Benson; and Associates, Rebecca Sojinu, and Emmanuella Edevbaro attended the 2025 SMC Music Business Conference, themed Empowering Creatives: AI for Growth, Opportunities, and Capacity Building. At the event, Rebecca Sojinu presented a paper titled Legal and Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence Adoption for the Creative Industries.
- N. Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu; Senior Associate, Omonefe Irabor-Benson; and Associates, Stanley Umezuruike and Rebecca Sojinu, co-authored a research paper titled Comparative Analysis of Digital Music Protection in Other Jurisdictions and Recommendations for Nigeria, which was featured in a published academic book by the School of Media and Communication, Pan-Atlantic University.
- O. Our Team Lead, Francisca Igboanugo; and Associates, Emmanuel Ughanze and Rebecca Sojinu, represented the Firm at the 8th Edition of the NADPA-RAPDP Conference hosted by the Nigerian Data Protection Commission.



# About the Firm

Stren and Blan Partners is a world-class ingenious law firm with a beautiful blend of the brightest minds and well-rounded individuals championed with sole responsibilities of providing solutions to business problems and equally finding answers to the questions of our clients. We are a team always guided by our professional ethics. Also, honesty and transparency have been our watchwords in practice.

Stren & Blan Partners is a full-service commercial Law Firm that provides legal services to diverse local and multinational corporations. We have developed a clear vision for anticipating our clients' business needs and surpassing their expectations, and we do this with an uncompromising commitment to Client service and legal excellence.

# Market Recognition

Our confidence and pride lie in our clients' satisfaction, and we continually align our objectives with their evolving business needs. In 2025, Stren & Blan Partners was honoured with a nomination in the "Innovation in ESG" category at the African Legal Technology & Innovation Awards. This recognition highlights our commitment to advancing Environmental, Social, and Governance standards through innovative legal solutions, particularly in sustainability-linked transactions within the

energy and finance sectors. Additionally, our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, was recognised as a Recommended Individual in the 2025 IAM Patent 1000 for his outstanding work in patent strategy, prosecution, and enforcement. Our Senior Associate, Omonefe Irabor-Benson, Emmanuel Ughanze, and Oluchukwu Nwakor also received special recognition for their dedication and consistent excellence within our Intellectual Property practice.





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