



Quarterly **IP** Newsletter

January – March, 2026

www.strenandblan.com
contact@strenandblan.com
[@strenandblan](https://www.instagram.com/strenandblan)

+234 (0)702 558 0053
3 Theophilus Orji Street, Off Fola Osibo
Road, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos, Nigeria

9th April,
2026



REGULATORY UPDATES

A. Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment

01

The Nigerian Federal Government inaugurates committees to drive National Intellectual Property Policy Implementation

The Nigerian Federal Government in January inaugurated implementation committees to drive the execution of Nigeria's National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS), marking a shift from policy adoption to practical implementation of the country's intellectual property reform agenda. The committees, comprising an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee and an Inter-Agency Coordination Group, were inaugurated by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, and are expected to coordinate efforts across government agencies and relevant stakeholders involved in intellectual property administration.

According to the Minister, the committees will oversee the rollout of the policy, ensure alignment between institutions responsible for intellectual property protection and promote the commercialisation of innovation across key sectors of the economy. The initiative is intended to strengthen Nigeria's intellectual property ecosystem, support creators and innovators, and enhance the country's competitiveness in global trade.

02

The Nigerian Federal Government Advances Industrial Reform Agenda with Strategic Board Inaugurations and High-Level Private Sector Engagement

The Nigerian Federal Government has advanced its industrial reform agenda with the inauguration of governing boards for several key institutions under the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, including the Standards Organisation of Nigeria. The inauguration of the Governing Council of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria plays a central role in regulating product standards, quality assurance and consumer protection. At the inauguration, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, highlighted the importance of strong standardisation systems in supporting industrial development and improving the global competitiveness of Nigerian products.

She also urged the new board to strengthen oversight and ensure that goods produced, imported or exported from Nigeria comply with recognised quality standards.

The development highlights the government's focus on strengthening regulatory institutions that support industrialisation, facilitate trade and improve confidence in Nigerian products across regional and international markets, particularly within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area.



B. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)



01

New Edition of the Nice Classification Enters into Force

A new edition of the Nice Classification for goods and services used in trademark registration entered into force on January 1, 2026. The thirteenth edition introduces updates affecting the classification of certain goods and services, with some items reassigned to different classes. Applicants filing new trademark applications are therefore required to review the updated classification carefully to ensure that goods and services are correctly categorised under the revised framework.

The revised classification applies to all new trademark applications received by offices of origin which are signatories to the Nice Agreement or the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization from January 1, 2026. However, international trademark registrations filed before that date will not be reclassified under the new edition.

The update reflects the periodic revision of the international classification system, which ensures that the structure used in trademark filings remains aligned with evolving commercial practices and emerging goods and services in the global economy.

02

International Patent Filings Record Modest Growth in 2025

According to new data released by the World Intellectual Property Organization in March 2026, Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) filings increased in 2025 by 0.7 percent to reach 275,900 applications worldwide, marking the second consecutive year of growth in international patent activity. The data shows that digital communication remained the largest technology field for international patent applications, accounting for 11.1 percent of published filings. Other major areas included computer technology, electrical machinery, medical technology and pharmaceuticals.

Semiconductor technologies recorded one of the fastest growth rates among leading fields, reflecting increased investment in digital infrastructure and emerging technologies. In terms of filing activity by country, China submitted the highest number of international patent applications, followed by the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Germany. The trend highlights the continued dominance of technology driven economies in global innovation and underscores the growing role of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, in shaping the future direction of intellectual property filings worldwide.



03

PCT Committee Strengthens Global Search and Examination Framework for Users

The PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation met in February 2026 and agreed to extend the appointments of all 25 International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities beyond 2027. The Committee also advised on appointing a new Authority and modernizing agreements to improve transparency and efficiency.

These outcomes strengthen the global framework for patent search and examination, ensuring stability and better service for PCT users worldwide.

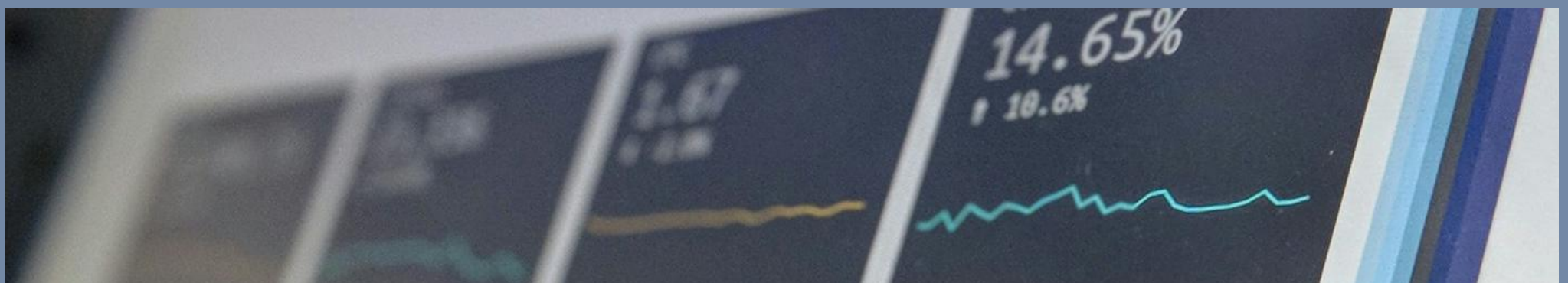
04

**Broader Data,
Stronger Rights:
New PCT Rules
Strengthen
International Patent
Searches**

As of January 1, 2026, new rules under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) have come into force, significantly expanding the scope and quality of international patent searches. Amendments to PCT Rules 34, 36, and 63 broaden the minimum documentation available to International Searching Authorities (ISAs), adding 19 new national patent collections to the global search framework. More collections are expected to follow, steadily enlarging the pool of prior art accessible to examiners.

In addition, ISAs and IP offices of PCT Contracting States are now required to exchange full-text patent applications, replacing image-only formats still used in some jurisdictions. This shift ensures that searches are based on richer, more reliable information, thereby strengthening applicants' rights and improving the consistency of results across jurisdictions.

For inventors and businesses, these changes mean greater confidence that international searches cover a wider range of prior art, reducing risks of overlooked patents and supporting smoother transitions from local filings to global protection. For patent offices, the reforms enhance efficiency and harmonization, reinforcing the PCT's role as the backbone of international patent filings.





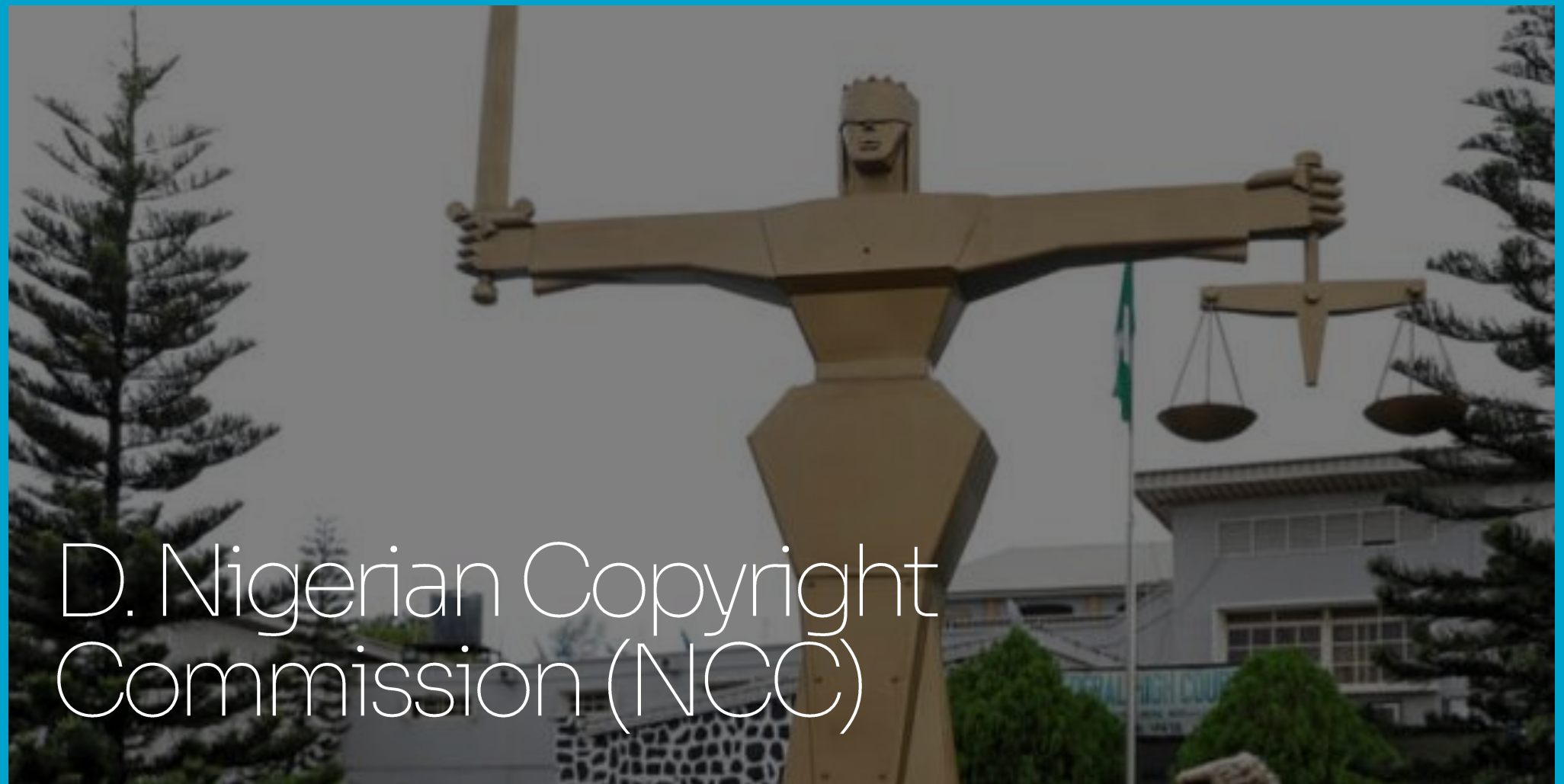
C. International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

01

UPOV Enlarged Editorial Committee Advances Work on Test Guidelines

The Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC-EDC) met virtually on 13 January 2026 to advance technical work under the UPOV system. The meeting focused on revising Test Guidelines and developing new guidance on molecular marker validation. Discussions covered crops such as goji, poinsettia, carnation, hazelnut, and eggplant, helping to ensure clarity and consistency in plant variety examination.

The outcomes will support globally harmonized standards and strengthen international cooperation in plant variety protection.



01

The Nigerian Copyright Commission Prosecutes CEO of Major Illegal Movie Download Site

The Nigerian Copyright Commission, following a complaint filed by Motion Picture Association (MPA) (the nominal complainant) through its legal representatives, Stren & Blan Partners, has arraigned Emmanuel Analike, CEO of NetNaija, before the Federal High Court in Abuja. He faces charges of unlawful possession, reproduction, and distribution of pirated movies and music. The prosecution is being brought under the Copyright Act 2022, which introduced stricter penalties for intellectual property violations.

This development could reshape Nigeria's digital entertainment landscape. Stronger enforcement may reduce access to pirated content, pushing audiences toward licensed platforms and strengthening protections for creators. In the long run, it could encourage greater investment in Nigeria's film and music sectors, aligning the country more closely with global standards of intellectual property protection.

E. Musical Copyright Society of Nigeria (MCSN)

01

PMAN and MCSN Activate Copyright Levy Framework Amid Industry Dispute

The Performing Musicians' Employers' Association of Nigeria (PMAN) and the Musical Copyright Society Nigeria (MCSN) have activated Nigeria's copyright levy framework, a statutory mechanism designed to compensate creators for the private copying and reproduction of their works. The levy, recognised under Nigerian copyright law, is intended to ensure that musicians and other copyright owners receive financial compensation from the use of devices and media capable of reproducing copyrighted content. However, shortly after its activation, controversy emerged within the music industry regarding the administration and distribution of the levy proceeds.

The dispute has since escalated into litigation, with a Federal High Court issuing an interim ex-parte order freezing approximately N1.2 billion linked to the levy funds following objections raised by record labels. In response, MCSN has approached the court seeking to vacate the order, arguing that the levy is a statutory framework designed to benefit copyright owners and that suspending the funds could undermine its objectives. The case highlights continuing tensions within Nigeria's collective management landscape regarding the governance and distribution of royalties.



F. Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON)



01

ARCON Declares State Directives on Advertising Vetting Illegal

The Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON) has declared directives issued by certain state signage and advertising agencies requiring advertisers to submit advertising materials for vetting prior to public display unlawful. The Council stated that such directives exceed the statutory powers of state agencies and conflict with the regulatory framework governing advertising practice in Nigeria.

According to ARCON, the regulation of advertising content falls within federal legislative competence, and the authority to vet and approve advertising materials is vested in the national regulator under the ARCON Act. The Council therefore warned that attempts by state agencies to impose separate approval requirements could create regulatory uncertainty and disrupt the operation of the advertising industry.

G. National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)

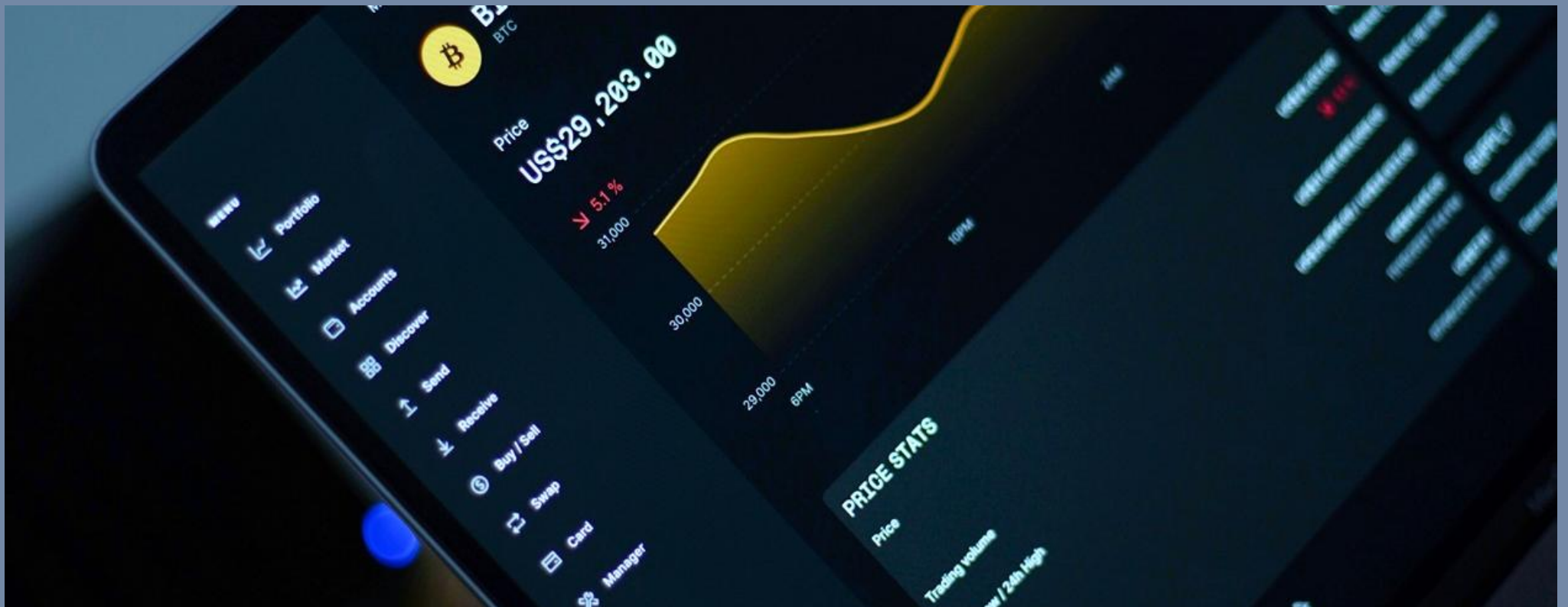
01

NOTAP Moves to Boost Intellectual Property Awareness in Nigeria

The National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) has intensified efforts to promote intellectual property awareness and protection across Nigeria's academic and research institutions. The Director General of NOTAP, Dr. Obiageli Amadiobi, disclosed that the agency is collaborating with universities, polytechnics and research institutes to sensitise researchers and innovators on the importance of securing legal protection for their intellectual property and ensuring proper recognition of their innovations.

As part of these efforts, NOTAP has been supporting researchers by covering the cost of patent applications and providing access to certified evaluators who assess innovations to determine their eligibility for patent protection. The agency also plans to expand the training of intellectual property evaluators in response to the growing number of patent applications being submitted by researchers across various fields. The initiative reflects a broader effort to strengthen Nigeria's intellectual property ecosystem by encouraging the protection and commercialisation of locally developed innovations, particularly within universities and research institutions where a significant portion of scientific and technological research originates.

H. NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE (NCS)



01

Nigerian Federal Government to officially launch digital trade platform on March 27

The Federal Government has announced plans to officially launch Nigeria’s National Single Window (NSW) digital trade platform on March 27, marking a significant step toward modernising the country’s import and export processes. The platform is designed as an integrated electronic portal that connects government agencies and stakeholders involved in cross-border trade, allowing traders to submit documentation once through a centralised system.

According to officials, the first phase of the platform will enable online processing of import permits, electronic submission of cargo manifests and the deployment of a centralised risk management system. The initiative forms part of the Federal Government’s broader trade facilitation reforms aimed at reducing bureaucratic bottlenecks, improving efficiency at the ports and strengthening Nigeria’s competitiveness in global trade.

CASE LAW UPDATES



i. Geberit International AG v. A-Excellent Bathroom Kitchen & Light Decor Equipment Ltd

The dispute arose when A-Excellent Bathroom Kitchen & Light Decor Equipment Ltd (the Respondent) applied to register the G-Geberit logo in Class 19. Geberit International AG (the Appellant), filed a Notice of Opposition, asserting that the mark was identical and confusingly similar to its GEBERIT logo, which was already registered in Class 11. The Appellant contended that the Respondent's mark was likely to deceive or cause confusion among consumers, particularly as both parties operated within the same industry.

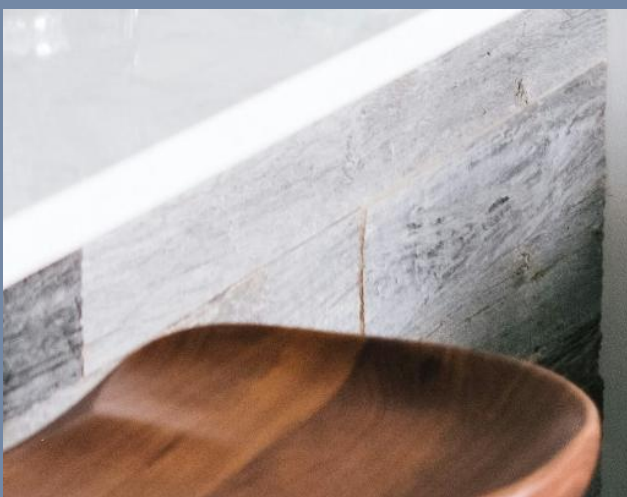
Following the exchange of pleadings, the Trade Marks Registry dismissed the opposition, holding that the Respondent's application did not contravene Section 13 of the Trade Marks Act because the competing marks were registered in different classes of goods.

The Registry reasoned that the Appellant's protection was limited to the class in which its mark was registered and that it could not prevent registration of similar marks across all other classes. Dissatisfied with this decision, the Appellant filed an appeal challenging the ruling on several grounds.

Firstly, the Appellant argued that the Registry erred in law by holding that opposition could only succeed where the competing marks were registered in the same class. According to the Appellant, Section 13 does not limit protection solely to class categorisation but also considers whether the marks relate to the same description of goods and whether their coexistence would likely deceive or confuse the public. Secondly, the Appellant contended that the Registry failed to properly consider the likelihood of confusion arising from the Respondent's use of a mark that closely resembled the Appellant's established GEBERIT mark.

The Appellant further argued that the Registry incorrectly interpreted Section 13 by focusing exclusively on class similarity rather than considering the broader statutory test, which includes the nature of the goods and the likelihood that an average consumer would associate the conflicting marks with the same source. In addition, the Appellant challenged the validity of the Respondent's Counter-Statement, which had been filed outside the statutory timeline prescribed by the Trade Marks Act. The Appellant argued procedurally that the Respondent's Counter Statement was filed outside of time and that this defect rendered the Counter-Statement invalid.

In response, the Respondent maintained that the marks were registered in different classes, and therefore the Appellant could not claim exclusive rights across all classes of goods. Regarding the late filing of its Counter-Statement, the Respondent argued that the delay was minimal and that it had been advised by the Registry that filing an application for extension of time was unnecessary.



In its determination, the Court distilled the issues into a central question: whether the mere classification of goods into different classes was sufficient to defeat an opposition where the marks were similar and capable of causing confusion. After reviewing the submissions of both parties, the Court held that the Registry had adopted an unduly narrow interpretation of Section 13 of the Trade Marks Act.

Relying on the decision in *Aventisuts LLC (formerly Aventis Holdings Inc) v. Macleod's Pharmaceuticals Ltd FHC/L/CS/1362/2017* (unreported) as well as section 11 of the Trade Marks Act, the Court emphasised that the key consideration in trade mark disputes is whether the use of a similar mark is likely to cause confusion among consumers, particularly where the mark in question is already well established. The Court noted that the Appellant's GEBERIT mark was long-standing and widely recognised, and that the Respondent's attempt to register a similar mark for goods used within the same construction and building industry was likely to create substantial confusion among members of the public.

The Court further held that classification of goods does not override the statutory prohibition contained in Section 13 of the Trade Marks Act as the decisive test remains whether the competing marks relate to the same or similar goods and whether an average consumer is likely to associate the later mark with the proprietor of the earlier registered mark.

On the procedural issue, the Court also agreed with the Appellant that the Respondent's Counter-Statement was filed outside the statutory time limit provided under Section 20(3) of the Trade Marks Act, which allows only one month for filing such a response. The Court held that compliance with statutory timelines is fundamental, as issues of jurisdiction are the lifeblood of adjudication. Consequently, the acceptance of the out-of-time Counter-Statement by the Registry was improper.

In light of these findings, the Court ruled in favour of the Appellant, setting aside the decision of the Trade Marks Registry.

This judgment reaffirmed that trade mark protection is not confined strictly to class categorisation but extends to situations where the similarity of marks and the nature of the goods are likely to mislead consumers. The decision therefore also highlights the importance of the likelihood of confusion test in Nigerian trade mark law and reinforces the principle that classification alone cannot defeat the statutory protection afforded to established trade mark owners. The Opponent/Appellant was represented by Stren & Blan Partners on appeal.

A vintage globe on a wooden stand is the central focus, surrounded by a compass and a rolled-up document. The scene is set on a dark wooden surface with a thick rope in the background.

UPDATES FROM OTHER JURISDICTION

A. African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

ARIPO Amends the Banjul Protocol on Marks

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) has adopted amendments to the Banjul Protocol on Marks, with the changes taking effect on 1 March 2026. The amendments introduce revised implementing regulations, updated forms and an adjusted fee structure applicable to new, pending and existing trade mark applications filed through the ARIPO system.

The reforms also clarify procedural timelines and introduce operational improvements aimed at streamlining the regional trade mark system. Key changes include increased official filing fees, updated procedural rules for opposition and examination, and a reduced examination period for designated states, reflecting ARIPO's broader effort to modernise and improve efficiency within the regional trade mark framework.

ARIPO Hosts Patent Examination and PCT Training Programme

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) has commenced a regional training programme on patent examination and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) at its headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe. The programme, organised in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization and supported by the Japan Patent Office, brings together patent examiners and intellectual property officials from ARIPO member states to strengthen technical capacity in the examination of patent applications.

The training focuses on improving the quality and consistency of patent examination across the region, including the use of international search tools and best practices under the PCT system. By strengthening the technical expertise of patent examiners, the programme is expected to enhance the efficiency and credibility of patent protection within the ARIPO system and support innovation across participating countries.

B. Organisation Africaine De La Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI)

OAPI Reaffirms Commitment to Creative Industries at Copyright General Assembly

In February 2026, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) participated in the General Assembly on Copyright held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, bringing together policymakers, creators and industry stakeholders to discuss the development of copyright systems and the promotion of cultural and creative industries. The meeting served as a platform for regional dialogue on strengthening copyright protection and supporting the economic potential of creative sectors across Africa.

During the assembly, OAPI reiterated its commitment to promoting copyright protection as a tool for economic growth and cultural development, particularly within the organisation's member states. The discussions focused on improving copyright governance, encouraging creative entrepreneurship and strengthening legal frameworks that support artists and creators in the region.

OAPI Supports Training of Future Intellectual Property Litigation Experts

OAPI has supported the training of future intellectual property litigation specialists through a programme organised at the Catholic University of Central Africa. The initiative aims to strengthen legal expertise in intellectual property enforcement by equipping young legal professionals with specialised knowledge in IP litigation and dispute resolution within the OAPI system.

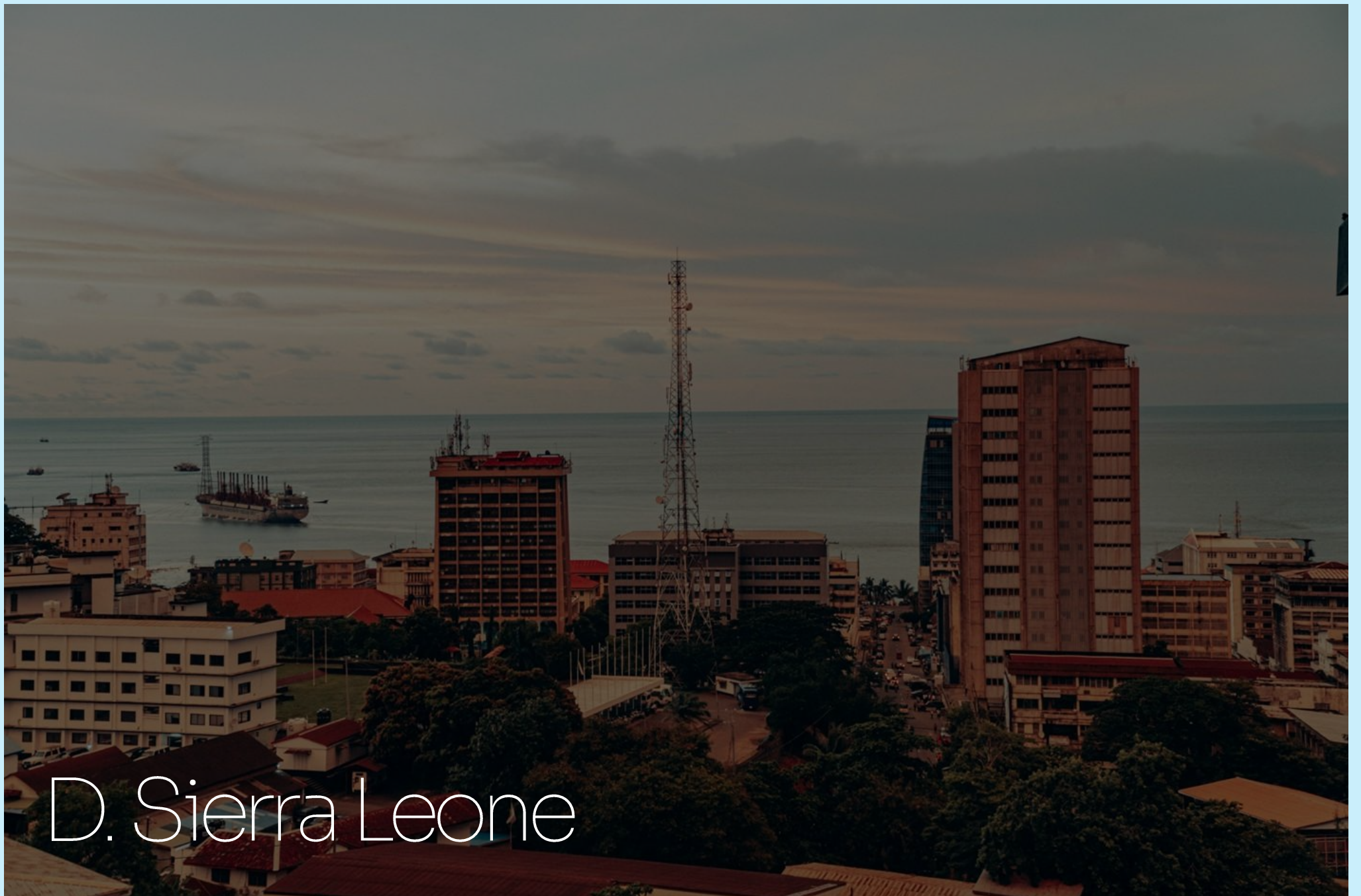
The programme reflects OAPI's broader efforts to build institutional capacity and enhance the enforcement of intellectual property rights across its member states. By supporting the development of specialised legal professionals, the organisation seeks to improve the effectiveness of intellectual property dispute resolution and reinforce confidence in the regional IP framework.



CLOGSAG Strike Disrupts Operations in Government Offices

A nationwide strike by the Civil and Local Government Staff Association of Ghana (CLOGSAG) has disrupted operations across several Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies. The industrial action led to the closure of many government offices, including the Industrial Property Office, leaving clients unable to access services.

The strike followed disputes between the union and the government over employment conditions and leadership appointments within the civil service. The strike has been temporarily suspended with workers set to return to work from Tuesday, 24 March 2026 to allow for an amicable resolution. The disruption highlights the broader impact labour disputes can have on public administration and service delivery.



Sierra Leone New Trade Marks Regulations Now Officially in Force

Sierra Leone has now introduced the Trade Marks Regulations, 2024, establishing a clearer procedural framework for the registration and administration of trade marks in the country. The regulations which the Trade Marks Registry began applying January 2026 set out prescribed statutory forms and procedures for key trade mark processes, including applications, opposition proceedings, renewals, assignments and cancellation actions before the registry.

The reforms are intended to improve the efficiency and transparency of trade mark administration while aligning the country's intellectual property practice with international standards. The regulations also form part of broader efforts to strengthen Sierra Leone's intellectual property framework and support innovation, branding and commercial activity within the country's growing business environment.



Sudan's Intellectual Property Office Returns to Khartoum

Sudan's Intellectual Property Department has begun relocating its operations from Port Sudan back to its original headquarters in Khartoum following a period of disruption caused by the country's ongoing conflict. The relocation was confirmed by the Ministry of Justice, which indicated that the transfer of files and administrative infrastructure is currently underway.

With the transition nearing completion, trade mark and other intellectual property services are expected to gradually resume. Authorities have also indicated that deadlines that fell during the suspension period have been extended, and applicants who were unable to obtain registration certificates during the disruption may request duplicate copies once operations fully normalise.



Algeria Updates Industrial Property Fee Schedule for 2026

The Algerian National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI) has released a revised schedule of official fees for industrial property, effective 1 January 2026, following the 2026 Finance Act. The updated fees cover trademarks, patents, and designs, affecting applications, renewals, recordals, and other related actions.

By introducing this structured fee framework, INAPI aims to streamline administrative processes and ensure clarity for IP owners operating within Algeria, supporting stronger management of industrial property rights and fostering confidence in the national IP system.



i. Egypt Links Commercial, Patent Data to Boost Investor Confidence, Protect IP

Egypt has introduced a new system linking commercial registry data with patent, trademark and industrial design records in a move aimed at strengthening intellectual property protection and improving investor confidence. The initiative, implemented through cooperation between the Internal Trade Development Authority and the Egyptian Patent Office, will allow authorities to cross-check company registration details with intellectual property records.

The integrated database is expected to reduce intellectual property infringements, streamline regulatory processes and make it easier for businesses to navigate administrative procedures. By improving coordination between government agencies and enabling more effective monitoring of IP rights, the system is intended to enhance transparency and enforcement within Egypt's innovation and business environment.

ii. Egypt Launches Sweeping Overhaul of Intellectual Property System to Boost Innovation and Economic Returns

Egypt has launched a comprehensive reform of its intellectual property framework aimed at strengthening innovation and increasing the economic value derived from intellectual property assets. The initiative forms part of Egypt's National Intellectual Property Strategy and includes the establishment of the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA) to centralise governance and coordinate IP administration across the country.

The reform focuses on updating the legislative framework to address emerging technologies, improving enforcement mechanisms, and increasing public awareness of intellectual property rights. By modernising its IP infrastructure and aligning its policies with international standards, Egypt seeks to enhance protection for creators and innovators while positioning intellectual property as a driver of economic growth and investment.



H. South Africa

South Africa Implements Electronic Issuance of Patent Certificates

South Africa has introduced electronic patent certificates as part of efforts to modernise the administration of intellectual property rights. The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) announced that, with effect from 2 February 2026, all patents and patents of addition granted from January 2026 onwards will be issued exclusively in electronic format.

The digital certificates include enhanced security features such as a digital seal, electronic signature of the Registrar of Patents and a QR code that allows instant verification of key patent details. Uncertified copies can be accessed through the CIPC IP Online portal, while certified copies may be requested electronically upon payment of the prescribed fees, reflecting the Commission's broader push toward digital transformation of South Africa's intellectual property system.



I. Zambia

Zambia Introduces Modernised Trade Marks Act

Zambia has implemented a new Trade Marks Act No. 11 of 2023, replacing the outdated 1958 legislation and introducing a modern legal framework for trade mark protection. The Act, which took effect from 31 December 2025, provides for the registration of service marks, recognition of well-known marks and the introduction of multi-class applications, aligning Zambia's trade mark regime more closely with international standards.

The new law also strengthens enforcement mechanisms against trade mark infringement and counterfeiting while introducing the protection of geographical indications. In addition, Zambia may now be designated under the Madrid Protocol system, enabling rights holders to extend international trade mark protection to the jurisdiction through international applications.



i. Libya Introduces Mandatory 10-Year Trade Mark Renewal Term

The Libyan Trade Mark Office has introduced a mandatory ten-year renewal term for registered trademarks, replacing the previous practice that allowed renewals for shorter periods. Under the new requirement, all trademark renewals must now cover the full ten-year protection period.

Trademark owners who previously renewed their marks for shorter durations will be required to file additional documentation and pay the applicable fees to extend their registrations to the full ten-year term. The change is expected to standardise renewal practices and align Libya's trademark system more closely with international norms.

ii. Libya Introduces Further Changes Affecting Trade Mark Practice and Agents

Libya's Trade Mark Office has introduced additional procedural changes affecting trade mark practice and the regulation of trade mark agents. Under the new measures, trade mark agents are required to ensure that their commercial registration explicitly covers the activity of registering foreign trademarks. Agents must also provide proof of professional liability insurance and obtain ISO 9001:2015 certification as part of the licensing requirements.

These developments signal increased regulatory oversight of trade mark practice in Libya and are intended to strengthen administrative standards within the country's intellectual property system.

NEWS ABOUT THE FIRM

IFLR Africa Awards 2026 Wins

Stren & Blan Partners won the Net Zero Transition Award and the Deal of the Year: Restructuring, Balmoral International Award at the IFLR Africa Awards 2026. These recognitions reflect the firm's commitment to innovative legal practice.

NBA SBL IP Committee Chair Appointment

Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, has been appointed Chairman of the Intellectual Property Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA SBL). This appointment shows his contribution to the development of business law practice in Nigeria.

NGCC Business Success Series Speaking Engagement

Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, spoke at the Nigerian-German Chamber of Commerce (NGCC) Business Success Series. His session, "AI Now & Next: What Every Business Should Know," focused on how artificial intelligence is already showing up in routine business decisions, what organisations should pay attention to as adoption expands, and the practical questions leaders are now expected to answer when deploying AI tools in commercial settings.

Chambers Global 2026 Firm Rankings

Stren & Blan was ranked in the Corporate Commercial and Intellectual Property & TMT practice groups of the 2026 Chambers Global Rankings. This recognition reflects the Firm's performance, expertise, and consistency in advising on complex commercial and technology-related matters.

Chambers Global 2026 Individual Recognitions

Our Partners, Amala Umeike and Christian Aniukwu, were recognised in the 2026 edition of the Chambers Global Rankings. They were recognised for Corporate/Commercial and Intellectual Property & TMT respectively, which reflects their broad range of expertise in these industries.

Managing IP EMEA Awards 2026 Shortlists

Our Partner, Christian Aniukwu and Senior Associate, Omonefe Iabor-benson, have been shortlisted for the Managing IP EMEA Awards 2026 as Practitioner of the Year and Rising Star respectively. These nominations reflect their outstanding work in intellectual property across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Managing IP EMEA Firm of the Year Shortlist

Stren & Blan Partners has been shortlisted for Firm of the Year at the Managing IP EMEA Awards 2026. This nomination is a recognition of the work our Team continues to put forward, and our clients who trust us to protect what they have built.

BusinessDay Corporate/Commercial Award Win

Stren & Blan Partners was honoured with the Corporate/Commercial Firm of the Year (Project Finance & Infrastructure) award at the BusinessDay Legal Dinner & Awards Gala. This recognition follows the Firm's work on finance, energy, and infrastructure projects.

WTR 1000 Global Recognition 2026

Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, has been recognized by the World Trademark Review (WTR 1000) in 2026 as a World Leading Trademark Professional. This recognition demonstrates his expertise, market reputation and positive client feedback.

INTA Anti-Counterfeiting Committee Reappointment

Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, has been reappointed to the International Trademark Association (INTA) Anti-Counterfeiting Committee. The reappointment follows his ongoing involvement with the Committee and aligns with the Firm's advisory role for clients dealing with brand protection, enforcement, and infringement matters.



About Stren & Blan Partners

Stren & Blan Partners is an innovative and dynamic law firm that combines the expertise of seasoned practitioners with the energy of emerging talent. We are dedicated to delivering practical solutions to our clients' business challenges and creating measurable value for their commercial endeavors. This commitment forms the foundation of our ethos, guiding everything we do.

As a full-service commercial law firm, we provide exceptional legal services to a diverse range of local and multinational corporations. Our clear vision is to anticipate our clients' evolving business needs and consistently exceed their expectations. This vision is driven by our unwavering dedication 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 for Firm of the Year at the Managing IP EMEA Awards 2026. This recognition underscores our unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and client-focused service.

It reflects not only our dedication to delivering outstanding legal solutions but also our ability to anticipate industry trends and adapt to the dynamic needs of our clients. At Stren & Blan Partners, we view every achievement as a testament to the trust our clients place in us and as motivation to continually raise the bar in legal practice.

