

Media Law International launches its ninth edition



MLI has published its 2022 edition, launching a new chapter for Northern Ireland, and featuring content from expert media lawyers

Media Law International (MLI) has launched the ninth edition of its flagship annual guide to the world's leading law firms for media.

The latest edition was published on 21 February, with a new chapter for Northern Ireland that highlights the region's most prominent firms for media law.

Newly named firms include Tier 1 firms Mills Selig, C&J Black and Carson McDowell.

MLI 2022 provides rankings coverage of 56 jurisdictions, as well as country summaries of market trends and developments. The research team conducts annual research,

interviewing law firm partners as well as GCs from global and regional media companies.

The guide includes content on the latest challenges in the media industry, as well as featured articles from Tier 1 firms Lausen, Charles Russell Speechlys covering the UAE market and from Poland's preeminent WKB Wiercinska, Kwiecinski, Baehr, which holds a long-standing Tier 1 position.

MLI 2022 also features articles from India's rapidly growing Tier 2 firm, TMT Law Practice, as well as Mexico's Tier 1 Dentons practice.

Commenting on the launch of MLI's ninth edition, Zineb Serroukh-Ouarda, ➔

Nigeria lifts Twitter ban after seven- month suspension

Nigeria has lifted a ban on Twitter after the social media company agreed to register in Nigeria and comply with local taxes.

The seven-month suspension began on 05 June 2021 after Twitter deleted a tweet by President Muhammadu Buhari.

The president approved lifting the suspension following months of negotiations.

According to a statement by Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, the Director-General of Nigeria's National Information Technology Development Agency, 'The FGN [federal government of Nigeria] lifts the suspension of the Twitter operations in Nigeria from midnight of 13 January 2022.'

The statement continues: 'The FGN has asked Twitter to fulfil some conditions before restoring its services. These conditions addressed legal registration of operations, taxation, and managing prohibited publication in line with Nigerian laws. Twitter has agreed to meet all the conditions.'

Twitter did not acknowledge the concessions stated by the government, but commented in a statement: 'We are pleased that Twitter has been restored for everyone in Nigeria. Our mission in Nigeria and around the world is to serve the public conversation.'

Twitter is expected to open its Nigerian office within the first quarter of 2022, and will meet conditions such as appointing a designated country representative, comply with local tax obligations and act with respectful acknowledgement of Nigerian laws. Twitter commented that it is 'deeply committed to Nigeria'. ■

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Contributors





Vox Media agrees to acquire Group Nine Media in all-stock deal uniting digital publishers

Vox Media has announced the signing of an agreement to acquire Group Nine, a company with a leading collection of multi-platform media brands.

The newly combined Vox Media portfolio includes award-winning editorial networks, and brings together growing advertising businesses with market-leading capabilities for a broader audience. The company reaches a domestic audience of 130 million per month, making it a top-10 US media organisation by audience, according to comScore.

Commenting on the deal, Jim Bankoff, Vox Media CEO and Chair, stated: "Under Ben's stewardship, Group Nine has navigated from

a scrappy start-up to one of the biggest and most successful publishers in the industry."

Mr Bankoff continued: "With this acquisition, Vox Media will extend its leadership into new categories, formats and distribution platforms."

The all-stock deal creates a company of 2,000 employees and provides advertising opportunities across its various properties, ranging from news, technology and sports to lifestyle, culture and politics.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the combined company is projected to generate more than USD700 million in 2022, and more than USD100 million in profit. ■

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← Managing Editor, highlights the most relevant topics highlighted by market participants from legal and business markets.

Ms Serroukh-Ouarda explained: "Each year of research uncovers crucial developments in the media industry, and legal market responses. The topic of NFTs is among the most notable over the past year.

"As a response to the rising relevance of NFTs, we have featured articles written by

lawyers Bagmisikha Puhan and Meghana Chandorkar, TMT Law Practice, India, as well as by Partner Dr Tim Kraft, Lausen, Germany.

"We have also heard from senior industry figures on the ongoing topic of media control and the role of politics."

MLI 2022 also features the article topic 'When Politics Attempts to Control the Media', written by lawyers Agnieszka Wiercinska-Kruzewska and Paulina Maslak-Stepnikowska,

Language law for Ukraine's print media takes effect

A new publishing law has come into force in Ukraine that requires all national print media to be published in the country's official language, Ukrainian.

The controversial law was adopted in 2019 but came into force on 16 January amid rising tension between Ukraine and Russia.

According to the "language law", all national print media must publish a secondary Ukrainian version on the same day, with the same title as well as of equal scope and circulation.

Article 25, relating to print media outlets, makes exceptions for certain minority languages such as English and official EU languages, but not for Russian.

According to official data from the Ukrainian Census of 2001, the Russian language is native for almost 30 per cent of Ukraine's population.

The 2019 language law was passed just after former president Petro Poroshenko was voted out of office.

Critics say the language requirement creates a financial burden for publishers in an already-shrinking market for print media.

Speaking to Ukrainian outlet Strana last year, media veteran Sergey Cherniavsky commented on the financial implications of a mandatory second print run, which would significantly increase costs for media outlets.

Mr Cherniavsky said: "In the case of the transition of print media to Ukrainian, business will suffer. In the future, it will lead to falls in tax revenues and loss of jobs." ■

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WKB Wiercinska, Kwiecinski, Baehr.

MLI continues to expand with its next in sequence, Annual Global Conference 2022, to take place on Tuesday 24 May. The online, on-demand event has attracted renewed interest from high-profile media companies including the Guardian, The Sun, the BBC, Channel 4, Charles Russell Speechlys as well as new speakers from Tuneln, Rangers Football Club and OKO.press. ■

MEDIA LAW INTERNATIONAL®

Second Annual Global Conference



BUSINESS AND LEGAL CONFERENCE
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2022

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