Mapping the scope of secondary copyright infringement in Nigeria: Much ado about 'cause to do'?
Bukola Faturoti, Robert Gordon University

The law of secondary liability is one of the areas badly understood under intellectual property rights. This position has been compounded by technologies which are of dual use. Though secondary liability for copyright infringement is creation of statutes both in the United Kingdom and Australia, the courts have tried to delimit the scope of liability incurred by party for authorising, sanctioning or ‘participating’ in an infringing act.

Comparing the Nigerian position with that of United Kingdom and Australia, this paper examines the scope of ‘causes to do’ under the Nigeria Nigerian Copyright Act 2004. This paper argues that the current approach under the Nigerian Copyright Act is too broad and may impose liability on unsuspecting party whose facility might have been used to infringe. It concludes that the provision creating liability should either be redrafted or further amendments should be made to provide guidance to court on a third party wrong.