JENNER & BLOCK

Lawyers Without Borders Spotlights Jenner & Block's Pro Bono Work in Kibera

News

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Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB) highlighted Jenner & Block's pro bono work with Hitachi Energy's in-house legal team to help artists, musicians, and digital creators in Kibera, Kenya, protect their intellectual property (IP).

Kibera, Africa's largest informal settlement, is home to a thriving creative community, yet many members have never earned fair pay for their work. Their art is resold at steep markups, their music sampled without royalties, and contracts sign away their rights, largely because few realize that their talent could be protected as intellectual property.

"We discovered that, actually, Kenya has a really well-developed system, with loads of legislation and a lot of different systems and procedures," said Practice Counsel Abi Dore. "There was so much of it, and the body was so extensive, that of course it becomes almost impossible for an individual to really know even what specific type of IP they're creating, let alone how to protect it.

In collaboration with LWOB and the Human Needs Project's Kibera Town Centre, the team distilled Kenya's extensive IP legislation, case law, and regulations into a practical toolkit for local creators.

"We wanted to prepare something that artists on the ground could use," said Abi.

The materials also supported a training for creators and entrepreneurs on copyright, contracts, and licensing.

The Jenner team included London Office Managing Partner Christine Braamskamp, Practice Counsel Abi Dore, and former special counsel Michaela Croft.

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