



Conference on: ARIPO and OAPI'S contribution in developing IP and creating a business enabling environment in Africa

Date:

Thursday, 18 May 2023

Venue:

Hospitality Room – Orchid 4303

Time:

10:00 am – 11:30 am

145th INTA Annual Meeting



Mr. Denis L. Bohoussou

Director General

African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)



Mr. Bemanya Twebaze

Director General

African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)



Mr. David Lossignol

Global Head Legal Brand Protection

Novartis International AG



Ms. Desirée Russo

Trademark Counsel

PUMA SE



Mr. Marius Schneider

Moderator

Founder and Director

IPvocate Africa



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Mr. Denis L. Bohoussou

Director General
African Intellectual Property
Organization (OAPI)

Mr. Denis L. BOHOUSSOU is the Director General (DG) of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI). Before joining OAPI, he was the DG of the Ivorian Office of Intellectual Property (OIPI). In this capacity, he managed Côte d'Ivoire's national intellectual property system and actively contributed to restructuring the Ivorian Copyright Office (BURIDA).

As an expert with WIPO, he led the development of the national IP strategy from various African countries and has produced numerous reports of studies on the intellectual property system in Africa.

Mr. BOHOUSSOU held high office in his country of origin, Côte d'Ivoire. He was Director of Private Sector Development at the Ministry of Industry and Private Sector Development of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and was Deputy Director of the National Center for Legal Documentation (CNDJ), which he helped set up.

He is the author of numerous publications and studies in law and intellectual property and also teaches the law of intellectual property and civil law in various universities and institutions as an assistant professor.



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Mr. Bemanya Twebaze

Director General
African Regional Intellectual
Property Organization
(ARIPO)

Mr. Bemanya Twebaze is the Director General of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO). He is a lawyer by training with vast legal and management experience spanning more than 28 years. He is serving his fixed term of four years, from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024.

Before this appointment, Mr. Bemanya served as Registrar General of the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), the Government institution that is responsible for Intellectual Property Rights Registrations, Business Registrations, Civil Registrations, and Insolvency and Corporate Rescue matters and the Official Receiver of Uganda, the office he assumed since 2012.

During his leadership at URSB, he transformed URSB into one of the most progressive, innovative, transparent, and customer-centric organizations in Uganda and the region. Under his stewardship, URSB opened branch offices to increase the accessibility of services throughout the country's regions, built a solid institutional brand nationally and internationally, and transformed the registry into a modern and reliable center for registration services.

His past portfolios include the WIPO Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE) Chairmanship, the Presidency of the Paris Union Assembly (International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property), and a member of the INTA IP Office of the Future Think Tank.



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Mr. David Lossignol

Global Head Legal Brand
Protection

Novartis International AG

David Lossignol is the Global Head of Legal Brand Protection at Novartis International AG in Basel, Switzerland, heading up a team which manages IP matters for Novartis worldwide. He joined Novartis in 2010, before moving to Sandoz, the generic division of Novartis in 2015 and returning to Novartis in 2019. He has worked in the healthcare sector for all of his career. David was the President of the International Trademark Association in 2019 and travelled on this occasion to Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad. David obtained law degrees at Nice Sophia-Antipolis University in France, where he has also lectured on IP law, and holds diplomas from Oxford Brookes University, UK and from CEIPI in Strasbourg, France. David is married and has 3 children.



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Ms. Desirée Russo

Trademark Counsel
PUMA SE

Ms. Desirée Russo is an IP Specialist with over 5 years of experience. She is the Trademark Counsel at PUMA SE based in Herzogenaurach, Germany, and is in charge of Monitoring, administration, and defense of the PUMA trademark portfolio in Africa and Europe.

In the past, she worked as the Legal Assistant in the First Board of Appeal - PanEuropean Seal Program at EUIPO as well as an IP Counsel and Brand Protection Specialist Associate at Studio Barbero S.p.A. in Torino, Italy.



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Mr. Marius Schneider
Moderator

Founder and Director
IPvocate Africa

Marius is the founder and director of IPvocate Africa, a law firm focusing on the protection, management, and enforcement of IP rights all over Africa. He has more than 25 years' experience in the field of intellectual property, of which more than 20 years in an African environment. He is a lawyer at the Brussels Bar. Marius works in English, French, German and Dutch for several national and international clients with a focus on Europe and Africa.