



Panel Session X: The middleman – intermediary liability

Advanced technologies and increased access to the Internet and communication networks around the world bring many opportunities both to exploit and infringe intellectual property rights online. According to Google data, the number of requests to remove links to copyrighted materials for the Google web search engine alone has jumped from a few hundred thousand web addresses each week in 2011 to more than 21 million a week in 2016.

Courts in many countries have now granted injunctive relief in the form of site-blocking injunctions requiring Internet Service Providers (ISPs) - "the middleman" - to block local access to sites which have infringing content. The EU and a number of countries have adopted various laws in an effort to combat digital infringement. Scenarios where a "middleman" may be enjoined and/or liable are numerous and varied, and subject to a web of different laws and regulations in many different jurisdictions.

This panel session will discuss intermediary liability in the digital world in key jurisdictions, including the availability of site blocking injunctions and address the practical effects and inherent limitations of such injunctions in the digital era.