

PODCAST



The Africa Law Tech Podcast explores the latest in legal technology and innovation in the African Continent. Follow and Listen to the Podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and all other leading podcast platforms.

OPINION

Technology and Criminal Justice

Body cameras have been adopted across the world as a tool to ensure accountability and transparency by police officers.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Mystery of Black Lives Matter Trademarks

New trademark applications covering terms relating to the Black Lives Matter movement filed in the US



LAWYERS HUB Tech for Justice

Newsletter

ISSUE 6 | SEPTEMBER 15 | 2021

www.lawyershub.org @lawyershubkenya  

 **STARTUPS**

Francophone Africa has its first unicorn

■ Wave, the U.S., and Senegal-based mobile money provider, has raised \$200 million in a Series A round of funding. This makes the fintech Francophone Africa first unicorn with a \$1.7 billion valuation. The round was funded by Sequoia brand, Founders Fund, payments giant Stripe, and Ribbit Capital.



NIGERIAN

Nigerian startups set to join inaugural Endeavor ScaleUp programme

■ Four Nigerian startups have been selected to join the first cohort of the Endeavor Scale-Up Programme. The programme supports high-impact business leaders through mentorship, fundraising support, partnerships, and a strong peer network.

KENYA

Naivas Partners with Jumia to boost grocery delivery in Nairobi

■ Kenyan supermarket Naivas has partnered with e-commerce platform Jumia to enable shoppers to have a contact-free shopping experience. Shoppers will now be able to purchase Naivas Food Market grocery items via the Jumia Food application. Launched in 2012 in Nigeria, Jumia is one of Africa's largest e-commerce marketplaces.



M-PESA becomes Africa's largest Fintech with 50 million subscribers across the continent

■ M-Pesa has reached 50 million monthly active customers becoming Africa's largest fintech platform. Launched 14 years ago by Kenyan

telco Safaricom, M-PESA currently empowers customers to send and receive money across more than 200 countries and territories.

AFRICA

Flutterwave partners with MTN Money to increase mobile money penetration in Africa

■ Nigerian fintech Flutterwave has partnered with MTN Money to offer MTN Mobile Money as a payment method to its business customers. Businesses in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia will be able to receive payments via MTN Mobile Money through Flutterwave.



DATA PROTECTION

WhatsApp Moderator Can Read Your Messages

A new ProPublica report on WhatsApp's content moderation system finds that the stance by Facebook that its WhatsApp end-to-end encryption messaging service can't be spied on is false. WhatsApp can read some of your messages if the recipient reports them which leads to confusion on the company's meaning of end-to-end encryption. ProPublica noted that at least 1000 moderators employed by Facebook had reviewed user-reported content that has been flagged by its machine learning system which monitors for spam, disinformation, hate speech, potential terrorist activities, and child sexual materials.



UK's ICO Call for Browser-Level Controls to Fix Cookie Fatigue

After years of inaction against adtech, UK's data protection chief has come out in favor of a browser and/or device-level setting that allows internet users to set lasting cookie preferences as a fix for the barrage of consent pop-ups that continue to infest websites in the region. The UK's outgoing commissioner urged her G7 counterparts in G7 countries to coalesce around the idea of letting web users' express generic privacy preferences at the browser/app/device level, rather than having to do it through pop-ups every time they visit a website. This is set to be a move to improve the current cookie consent mechanism, making web browsing smoother and more business-friendly while protecting personal data.

The LAPD Built Collecting Social Media Information into Its Interview Process for Civilians

The Los Angeles Police Department asked officers to gather social media information as a standard part of their interviews with civilians, whether or not the people were implicated in a crime. The practice forms part of a larger LAPD social media monitoring strategy. The broad collection of social media data could leave people who are stopped by police vulnerable to additional online surveillance regardless of whether they are officially under investigation or not.

1,000
Moderators

MODERATORS EMPLOYED BY FACEBOOK TO REVIEW USER-REPORTED CONTENT THAT HAS BEEN FLAGGED BY ITS MACHINE LEARNING SYSTEM

BLOCKCHAIN & DIGITAL CURRENCIES

Ukraine gives cryptocurrency legal status

Ukraine has become the fifth country to officially regulate cryptocurrencies and recognize Bitcoin as a legal financial asset. This is through the crypto bill introduced early this week. The bill allows the government to regulate virtual assets and create an official industry out of the cryptocurrency space.

El Salvador buys \$21 million in Bitcoin

El Salvador purchased about \$21 million worth of Bitcoin on Monday. The crypto purchase comes as a new law allowing residents to use the cryptocurrency as legal tender took effect. The transition was met with challenges as Chivo, the country's digital wallet, went offline, protestors took to the street capital to denounce the move, and the price of Bitcoin dropped significantly.

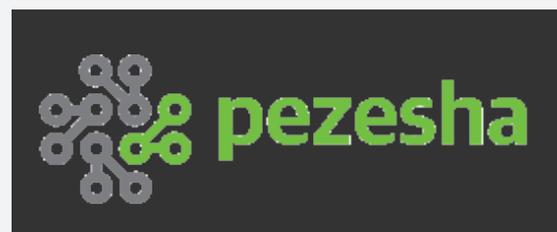


FUNDING

Nigerian fintech startup Prospa has closed a US\$3.8 million pre-seed funding round to help it accelerate customer acquisition, expand its team and further develop its product suite.

mnt | Halan

Egyptian fintech startup MNT-Halan has secured a US\$120 million investment by major global and regional growth investors to further develop its product and expand internationally.



Kenyan fintech startup Pezesha, which is building scalable lending infrastructure for SMEs and institutions, has closed a seven-figure seed extension round for expansion across Africa.



DIGITAL ID



MasterCard partners with Paycode to increase access to financial services and government assistance for Remote communities across Africa

The MasterCard Community Pass is a biometric smart card that will help increase access to critical services and economic inclusion for Africans by ensuring individuals can access digital financial services offline in real-time even if they lack identity documents like a birth certificate or passport. The plan aims to onboard 30 million Africans living in remote areas solving challenges of lack of internet connectivity.

Zimbabwe is set to digitize its digital registry by December 2021

■ The Zimbabwean Minister for Home Affairs announced that the country would begin digitizing its civil registry department that is passports, National Identity, and birth Certificates in December. The system is set to help solve the current challenges in processing identity documents characterized as slow and inefficient and clear the 226 000 passport application backlog.



Belarus now issuing biometric passports and national identity cards

■ On 1st September the Republic of Belarus began issuing biometric passports and national identity cards following the implementation of a collaborative state project of the Ministry of Interior, Foreign affairs, Communications and Information and Finance. The project was also delivered through consultative efforts of a consortium led by Emptech and will see at least 9 million Belurians receive their biometric IDs.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Tesla Obtains Patent on its Idea to Use Lasers as Windshield Wipers



PHOTO: ELECTREK.CO

■ The United States Patent and Trademark Office has granted a patent to Tesla for its idea to use lasers to clean debris off of vehicles. The patent is titled “Pulsed laser cleaning of debris accumulated on glass articles in vehicles and pho-

tovoltaic assemblies.” While companies often seek patents on technologies that will never end up in consumer products it is still interesting that Tesla thought it would be worth securing IP on this particular technology.

Fiji's New Brand Protection in 90 Years

■ The Pacific Nation of Fiji has gathered a new Fijian Trademarks Act, with the hope that it will come into force in the near future. The law, which would replace its early century-old trademarks act, has the potential to be amongst the best in the world for a country of its size. Fiji's present Trademarks Act was implemented in 1933 and was based on

the UK's Trademarks Act of 1905 and has since broadly remained unchanged. It has been cited as not being able to adequately recognize or address modern commercial and legal requirements. The new law, which was gazetted at the end of August 2021, is expected to provide much greater certainty and reliability to the Fijian trademark act.

The Mystery of Black Lives Matter Trademarks

■ Two new trademark applications covering terms relating to the Black Lives Matter movement have been filed in the US purporting to be by Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation. Just in September 2020, more than 50 attempts to register Black Lives Matter brands were found in the World Trademark Review investigation, which included

dozens of filings in the US and beyond. Most of these applications were exploitative and opportunistic. The filings are however notable as they illustrate the fact that terms relating to social movements remain attractive targets for trademark applicants and highlight another way that the identity of third parties can be utilized in application.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Brazil issues new regulations on content moderation to social media platforms

■ Last week Brazil issued new social media regulations that prohibit social media companies from taking down content on certain topics without a judicial order. The rules allow social media companies to take down content that violates platform rules on nudity, drugs and violence, crime, or copyright. However other content would need prior approval. Some tech companies have responded stating that the regulations encourage the spread of misinformation and disinformation especially as it would take longer to take the content down.

We Removed Something You Posted

We removed the post below because it doesn't follow the Facebook Community Standards:



UK Proposes to amend laws on automated decision making

■ The UK is set to revise its data protection laws following the exit from the European Union. Last week the UK proposed to amend article 22 of the GDPR to remove the human review of some automated decisions made by Artificial Intelligence proposing alternatives like the legitimate interest test. This is in a move to boost the UK digital economy. The EU which has previously issued an adequacy decision to the UK said its closely following the UK's data protection legislation and could review its decision.

CODED BIAS



A SHALINI KANTAYYA FILM

Sign the Universal Declaration of Data as Human Rights by Coded Bias

■ Coded Bias is a documentary film that aims to shine a light on bias encoded in algorithms that impact us all and the threat automated systems pose to civil and human rights. The declaration aims to ensure organizations do not profit off limitless use of data without consent and have faces and personal information be subject to invasive surveillance. Read more on the declaration and can sign it [here](#).

“

The declaration aims to ensure organizations do not profit off limitless use of data without consent and have faces and personal information be subject to invasive surveillance.

Technology and Criminal Justice



George Floyd's death took the world by storm in 2020. In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, citizens the world over took to the streets to protest police brutality in the US. Floyd was murdered by former Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin who knelt on his neck for over nine minutes after he was arrested for suspicion of using a counterfeit \$20 bill.

Protests went on for days. Chauvin's eventual conviction came in April of 2021 with the former police officer being found guilty on all charges including second-degree intentional murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter. Digital evidence played a big role in his conviction. Footage from cell phones, surveillance cameras, and body cameras was presented to jurors during the course of the trial.

Body cameras have been adopted across the world as a tool to ensure accountability and transparency by police officers. In the United States, police brutality protests following the shooting of civilians in 2014 led to a push for outfitting police with body cameras. Research by the National Institute of Justice found that by 2018, 47% of general-purpose law enforcement agencies in the US had acquired body-worn cameras.

Over the years, their use has scaled past accountability to generating evidence in criminal proceedings with footage being used to prove a violation of a defendant's rights, or help present accurate summaries of police interactions. In most jurisdictions, this type of evidence has been found to be admissible

if authenticated by a witness with knowledge of the contents of the recording.

This past week, a Kenyan cybersecurity specialist, Douglas Okonu, designed a body camera system complete with an audio transmitter, a high pixelated camera, and the ability to transmit in real-time live feeds to a control room for analysis for use by security officers.

Digitizing Kenya's National Police Service

In 2015, the Information Command and Control Centre, IC3, was established. Its first task being the installation of 24-hour surveillance cameras to help combat motor vehicle theft. The Service recovered over 4000 stolen motor vehicles in Nairobi and Mombasa between 2016 and 2018, all thanks to the system. More recently, the NPS launched the digital occurrence book at Kasarani Police Station in Nairobi. Launched in 2019, information fed into the digital OB, which seems to be run on blockchain-based technology, cannot be edited, increasing its credibility.

Changes in policy have also influenced how criminal justice players interact with digital evidence. The Kenya Communications (Amendment) Act No. 1 of 2009 brought with it a wave of reform around electronic records, transactions, and evidence.

The Act introduced Part VII of the Evidence Act on Electronic Records. Section 106B of the Act regulates the admissibility of electronic evidence. The provision requires that for digital evidence to be admissible, it must be authenticated by an expert.

When asked about body cameras and dash cameras in 2020, the Inspector General of Police, Hilary Mutyambai backed their adoption stating, "Having body cams is progressive. We're set to adopt it once we have sufficient resources."

Less than two weeks after the death of George Floyd, Kenyans took to the streets to protest extrajudicial killings. The protests were triggered by the death of Mathare resident, James Mithii, who was shot and killed by police in area 3C, Mabatini Ward on Monday 1st June 2020.

In August 2021, Kenyans went online to demand accountability on the part of the police for the death of brothers, Emmanuel Mutura Ndwiga and Benson Njiru Ndwiga. The two were arrested for allegedly violating curfew. Their bodies were found two days later in a police station. Six police officers have since been charged with murder.

Digitizing the police service could go a long way in improving transparency and accountability by the police. These technologies could also help train police officers by giving them a glimpse into their current strategies, assessing their efficiency, and proposing new approaches to how they carry out their duties.

PRODUCT HUNT

Facebook unveils its smart glasses, Ray-Ban Stories

■ Ray-Ban and Facebook have collaborated over a new pair of smart glasses that will allow users to snap photos and videos with the two onboard 5 MP cameras, listen to music with in-frame speakers and take phone calls. The glasses need to be connected to an iOS or Android device for full functionality, though users can take and store hundreds of photos or dozens of videos on the glasses before transferring media to their phones via Facebook's new View app. The twin cameras will allow users to add 3D effects to their photos and videos once they upload them to the app.

As for the glasses' privacy features, some are directly built into the frames, while others can be customized in the Facebook View app. On the frames themselves, white LED lights above the cameras alert those around you that you're taking a photo or video. And you can turn off the cameras and microphones if you want to use the glasses without their smart features.

Twitter takes on Facebook Groups with invite-only Communities

■ Twitter is launching Communities, its rival to Facebook Groups and Reddit, for tweeting with others who share specific interests. Similar to how groups on Facebook and Reddit's subreddits work, each Twitter Community will have its own moderators who are able to set rules and invite or remove people. Twitter invited a handful of users to create the first Communities and will let anyone apply to create their own on its website. (SOURCE: THEVERGE)

WhatsApp users will now be able to encrypt their chat backups in the cloud

■ WhatsApp says it will give its two billion users the option to encrypt their chat backups to the cloud, taking a significant step to put a lid on one of the tricky ways private communication between individuals on the app can be compromised.

The Facebook-owned service has end-to-end encrypted chats between users for more than a decade. But users have had no option but to store their chat backup to their cloud — iCloud on iPhones and Google Drive on Android — in an unencrypted format. Tapping these unencrypted WhatsApp chat backups on Google and Apple servers is one of the widely known ways law enforcement agencies across the globe have for years been able to access WhatsApp chats of suspect individuals. Now WhatsApp says it is patching this weak link in the system.

(SOURCE:TECHCRUNCH)

EVENTS



Kenya IGF 2021

The Kenya IGF will be a hybrid event held on 23rd September 2021 during the IGF week that takes place from 20th to 23rd. The main outcome of the Kenya IGF is to maximize opportunities for open and inclusive dialogue and the exchange of ideas on Internet Governance (IG) related issues.

Register here: <https://ti.to/keigf/2021>

Using ADR in Software and Mobile Apps- 16th September 2021

This is a training by the Kenya Copyright Board and World Intellectual Property Organization for software and mobile App developers on using Alternative Dispute Resolution in Software and mobile Apps Disputes.

2021 Emerging Legal Technology Forum- 4Th November 2021

This forum offers a comprehensive look at how a pandemic year has accelerated (or in some instances derailed) the ongoing industry disruption of the past several years. What projects or initiatives are business and technology leaders prioritizing in a world struggling to regain momentum? What lessons has a year (or two) in quarantine taught us about technological investments and implementation going forward? And are law firms and corporate or government entities truly equipped to handle the demands of a new work environment? Attend this to comprehensively explore these and other strategic conversations.

LAWYERS HUB MEMBERSHIP

Join our membership and be a part of a great community that includes legal and tech professionals, students, startups, organizations and government representatives. Over the past year, members have benefited through Networking Opportunities, Collaboration Opportunities, Invitations to speak at events, Mentorship, Access to the Lawyer’s Hub Innovation Space and to cutting-edge technology tools. This year, we have revamped our offers to make it even better and more accessible to many across Kenya & beyond our borders. These benefits include;

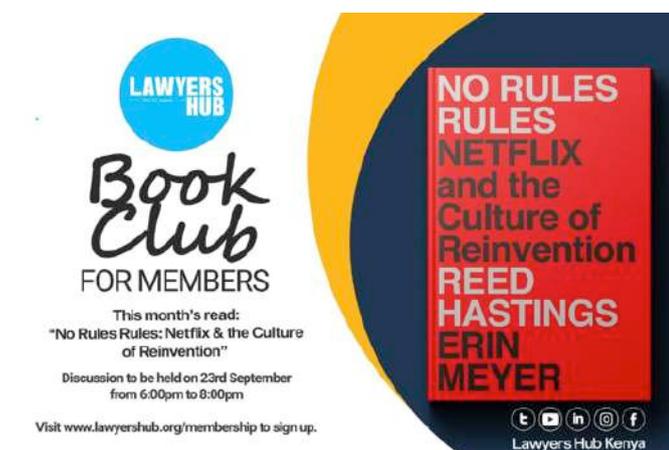
1. CODING FOR LAWYERS

It is important for lawyers to learn the fundamentals of coding as the legal industry becomes more tech and data driven. The Lawyers Hub has taken the initiative to ensure that its members develop these skills by curating a coding course that is set to start on the 1st of October 2021.



2. BOOK CLUB

September read: No Rules Rules; Netflix and the culture of Reinvention by Reed Hasting and Erin Meyer. Applications to join are open. 1st discussion will be held on 23rd September 2021.



3. DANCE CLASS

We care about our members' mental health and fitness as these are crucial to everyone's wellbeing. The Lawyers Hub hosts two choreographed dance classes every week that will tick all your mental health boxes in Upper Hill at Ack Garden House. You also get to network with working groups. Your 1st dance class is on the house. Join us!

4. DISCOUNTS ON LAWYERS HUB AMENITIES

Have you been looking for an office to work from? Tired of working from home and need a change in work environment? Having issues with power or the internet? The Lawyers Hub has amazing deals on its amenities for members such as 10% discounts on virtual office, private office, hot desks, meeting and conference rooms, and event space with great features suited to help you take your business to the next level.

We also have amazing deals on our media and events services for virtual, physical and hybrid events if you are looking to convene conferences, trainings, host webinars, launches, AGMs, you name it!



Book a tour with us today!
Sign up today to get access to these amazing offers.
Visit www.lawyershub.org/membership
or call +254784840228 for inquiries.



The Lawyers Hub event space is equipped to serve a variety of event types from AGMs, Conferences, Webinars, Launches, socially oriented events such as parties, Workshop and Trainings. We also offer video conferencing and live streaming services that will take your event to the next level. Book today, call +254784840228 to get a quote.

LAWYERS HUB CO-WORKING SPACE

Our serviced office space provides individuals and organizations in the Law & Tech space with everything you need to grow and innovate. Come and work with like-minded professionals in the industry, accelerate your business growth, and unlock your potential in our well-designed work environment. We offer hot desks, private offices and meeting rooms all at flexible rates.



CO-WORKING SPACE

For Individuals in the Law & Tech Ecosystem

info@lawyershub.ke
www.lawyershub.org
1st Ngong Avenue,
Upper Hill, Nairobi

MEETING ROOMS
Suitable for Staff Meetings, Workshops and Teleconferencing.

PRIVATE OFFICE
Suitable for Private Meetings, Consultations, Virtual Hearings and Mediation.

HOT-DESKS
Suitable for people who are working remotely but need to step out of for a day or two to get things done.



Complimentary Services include: On-site Staff Support, 150 mbps WiFi throughout the building, Print, Copy, & Scan, Complimentary Coffee, Tea, and Water

Lawyers Hub Kenya
(+254) 784 840 228