

The Law and how it affects the Book Trade in Kenya

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ABSTRACT

Book trade is a function of the larger publishing industry in which books are the main products for dealing. Handling books brings into focus separate yet interrelated legal aspects that affect their treatment and distribution. Laws affecting the book trade comprise the copyright law, which essentially is a book trade law. Other laws arising from books as products include defamation, Official Secrets Act, contempt of court, blasphemy, privacy and confidentiality, and racial /tribal laws to name but a few. Since in the face of the law 'ignorance' is no defense, it is paramount that players in the book trade are sensitized about the law and how it affects the trade. This concern emanates from the fact that players in the book trade have on numerous occasions experienced punitive actions stemming from violation of laws some of which they may not be conversant with. This paper therefore discusses the law and how it affects the book trade from a Kenyan perspective.