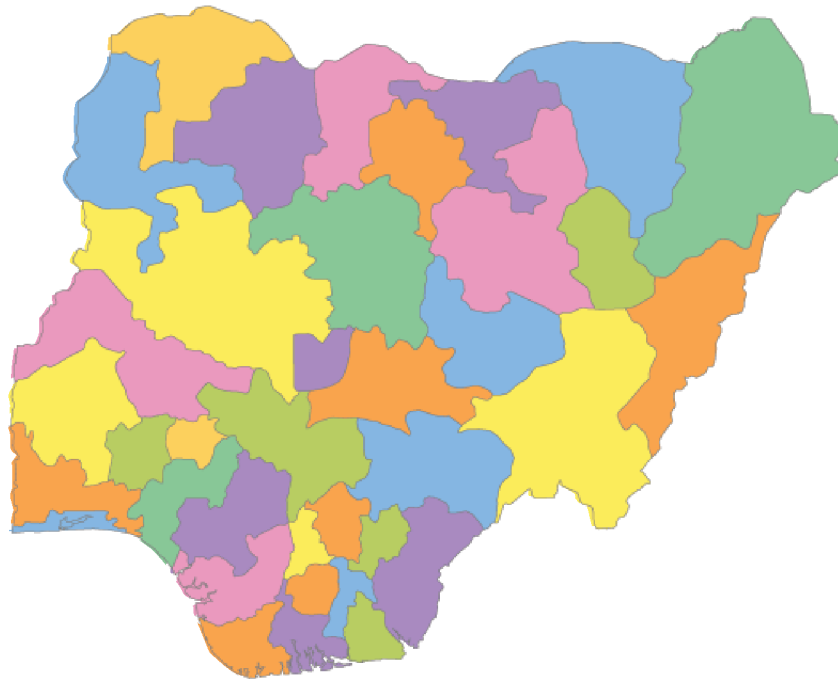




Digital Rights lawyers Initiative
is a network of 250 members across
the Globe who Practice in the broad
sphere of digital rights including
litigious and non-litigious matters
surrounding digital rights.



DRLI is actively present in 10 States in Nigeria

1. Lagos
2. Ogun
3. Anambra
4. Delta
5. Kaduna
6. Kano
7. Oyo
8. Abuja (FCT)
9. Akwa-ibom
10. Plateau



DRLI is wholly committed to the protection of digital rights of expression and freedom of the press. To this effect, DRLI has defended 11 journalists.



Digital Rights Lawyers Initiative was birthed to facilitate promotion of digital rights across the length and breadth of the Globe. To that end, the organization has handled 35 cases.



In July 2020, the Digital Rights Lawyers Initiative (DRLI) which has been at the fore front of digital rights litigation since its incorporation in January 2019, got a huge boost in its strides towards advancement of the jurisprudence around digital rights in Nigeria when judgment was delivered in ***Suit No. AB/83/2020*** between ***Incorporated Trustees of Digital Rights Lawyers Initiative*** and ***National Identity Management Commission (NIMC)***. In the judgment delivered on the 15th day of July 2020, the Ogun State High Court, per A.A Akinyemi J. specifically held at page 8 that:

“The kernel of both the provision of section 37 of the Constitution and these illuminating decisions is, to my mind, that privacy of a citizen of Nigeria shall not be violated. From these decisions, privacy to my mind, can be said to mean the right not to have others intrude into one’s private space uninvited or without one’s approval. It means to be able to stay away or apart from others without observation or intrusion. It also includes the protection of personal information from others. This right to privacy is not limited to his home but extends to anything that is private and personal to him including communication and personal data” (***Favour Posu***)

Although the court did not grant DRLI’s reliefs, the decision has, arguably, strategically set the tone for the advancement of the data protection jurisprudence vis a vis right to privacy in Nigeria courts.

Again on Monday, 9th day of November 2020, the same Ogun State High Court, per O. Ogunfowora, J. delivered judgment in ***Suit No. HCT/262/2020*** between ***Incorporated Trustees of Digital Rights Lawyers Initiative*** and ***LT Solutions & Multimedia Limited***, when the Court rightly held that:

“Now, as regards data protection, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) set up under the NITDA Act 2007, is the government agency responsible for the regulation of the use and exchange of information and this agency issued the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation 2019 (The Regulation) which became operational from 25th January 2019. The regulation contains the Nigerian government’s definitive policy statement on data protection.

In the light of the above, I thus also have no hesitation in holding that, the right to privacy extends to protection of a citizen’s personal data.” (***Favour Posu***)

With these two decisions on data protection, it is believed that, Nigerian privacy professionals now have a reference point on the nagging issue bordering on the relationship between privacy and data protection under our Constitution until an appellate decision is handed down on the argument.



To equip budding lawyers with practical knowledge of digital rights from seasoned data protection practitioners, DRLI makes room for several interns to be part of its objectives through virtual and offline platforms.