The Haim Striks Faculty of Law



RECONSIDERING CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT OF COPYRIGHT AND THE RISE OF CIVIL ENFORCEMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Prof. Miriam Marcowitz-Bitton

The College of Management

Academic Studies

Prof. Orit Fischman-Afori

C-IP2 Conference

September 23, 2022

Background

Copyright Crisis Centrality of Enforcement

Criminal Enforcement

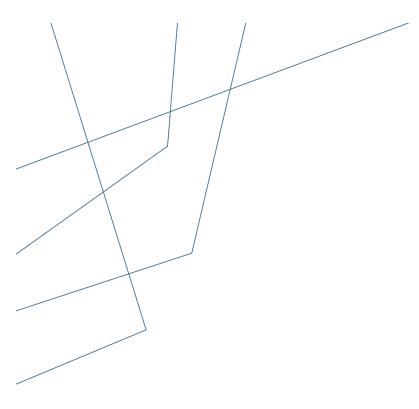
Challenges to Criminal Enforcement Expansion of Legal Frameworks Enforcement in Practice

The Rise of Civil Enforcement

Expansion of Civil Enforcement Frameworks Algorithmic N&T and Statutory Damages in Practice A Powerful Package

Reconsidering Criminal Enforcement

AGENDA



BACKGROUND

COPYRIGHT CRISIS

COPYRIGHT LAW IS IN CRISIS:

>Accused of not promoting a fair, balanced and efficient outcome.

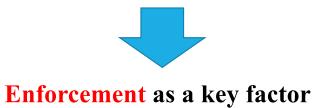
Copyright "wars" between right-holders, intermediaries and users.

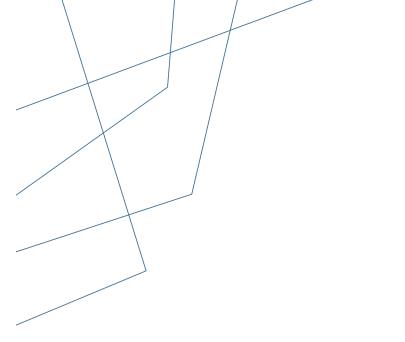
COPYRIGHT CRISIS

WAYS TO EASE THE CRISIS:

>Redefinition of rights

≻A remedial path





CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT

CHALLENGES TO CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT

Challenges to Criminalization of IPR Infringement

- Intangible assets not as intuitive as theft of tangible assets
- Moral wrongfulness is not consensual
- Damages are difficult to assess

Challenges to Criminalization of Copyright Infringement

- Expressive assets harder to perceive infringement as theft
- Copyright uncertainties regarding permitted uses foster public perception that infringement is not morally wrong
- Chilling effect on freedom of speech



Criminal Offence

EXPANSION OF CRIMINAL MEASURES

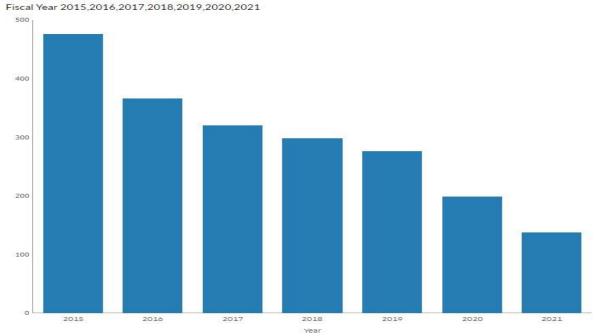
PLSA 2020

PRO-IP Act 2008

NET Act 1997 + DMCA 1998

CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT IN PRACTICE

Number of Offenders Over Time



The figure includes the 2,069 cases reported to the Commission. Cases missing information necessary to complete the analysis were excluded from this figure.

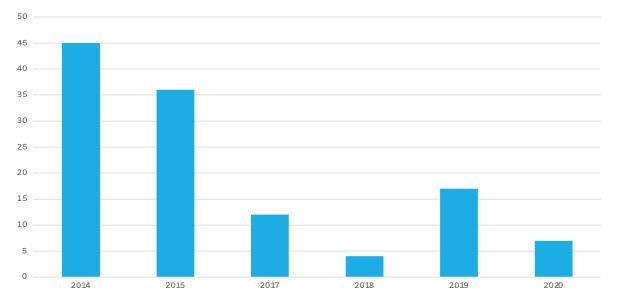
FILTER:

Fiscal Year: 2015,2016,2017,2018,2019,2020,2021; Circuit: All; State: All; District: All; Race: All; Gender: All; Age: All; Citizenship: All; Education: All; Crime Type: Forgery/Counter/Copyright; Guideline: All; Drug Type: All; Criminal History: All; Career Offender Status: All

Source: https://ida.ussc.gov/analytics/saw.dll?Dashboard

CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT IN PRACTICE

Criminal Charges in Copyright Cases -2014-2020



Source: United States Department of Justice PRO IP Act Annual Reports 2014-2020

THE RISE OF CIVIL ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORKS

EXPANSION OF CIVIL ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORKS

Digital Theft Deterrence Act 1999 Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act 2020

DMCA 1998

CIVIL ENFORCEMENT IN PRACTICE

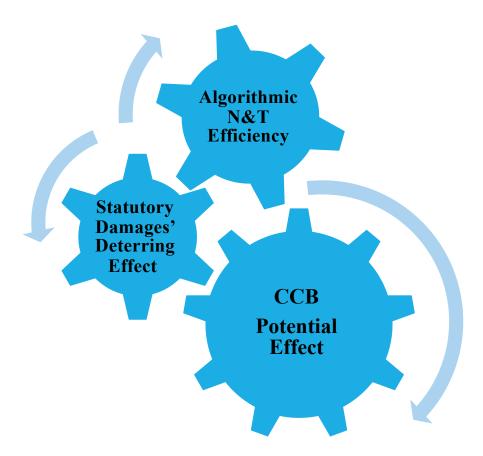
DMCA § 512 Notice &Takedown

- Algorithmic N&T proven to be effective (*e.g.*. YouTube Content ID)
- Mandatory proactive monitoring and takedown framework in the EU (§ 17 CSM Directive)
- Controversial due to over-blocking

Statutory Damages

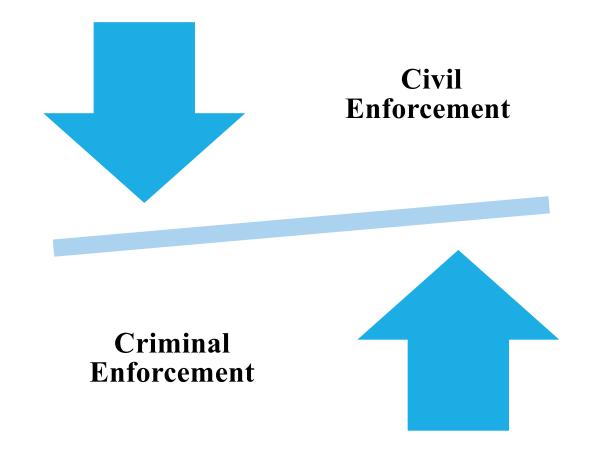
- Proven to be an effective enforcement measure that serves as a deterrent
- Functions primarily as a punitive mechanism
- Controversial due to over-deterrence

POWERFUL SYNERGISTIC CIVIL ENFORCEMENT PACKAGE



RECONSIDERING CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT

IS CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT JUSTIFIED?



THANK YOU



Orit Fischman-Afori forit@colman.ac.il



Miriam Marcowitz-Bitton Miriam.Bitton@biu.ac.il