

*LESI Copyright  
Committee*

**2024**

12:00 noon, GMT  
(8pm, Singapore Time)

**3rd October,  
2024**

Location

**Online (Zoom)**

Registration

**[Click here to sign up](#)**

# NEWS PUBLISHERS VS DIGITAL PLATFORMS

NEW LAWS TO BRIDGE THE  
'VALUE GAP' TO SAFEGUARD  
JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS

## Panel



**GEORGE HWANG**

*George Hwang LLC, Singapore  
Moderator*



**NEIL TOBING**

*PT Visi Media Asia Tbk, Indonesia  
Speaker*



**HARRY MELKONIAN**

*Melkonian & Co, Australia  
Speaker*



**MATTIA DALLA COSTA**

*CBA Studio Legale, Italy/EU  
Speaker*

## About the program

In an era where information flows freely online, the news industry is facing a revenue crisis. Across the globe, newspapers are losing advertising revenue whilst digital platforms like Facebook and Google are using news content without directly compensating its creators. This "value gap" has sparked a global legislative response. The EU and countries like Australia, Canada, and Indonesia are pioneering new laws to level the playing field between tech giants and news publishers. These groundbreaking regulations aim to ensure fair compensation for quality journalism in the digital age. The reaction of the tech giants varies. Whilst Google has agreed to pay millions to Australian and Canadian news outlets, Facebook has decided to block news in these countries.

Questions arise: How do we balance the interests of tech innovation and content creation? Does copyright have a role in protecting the standards of journalism and democracy? Join us as we explore the evolving relationship between news publishers, digital platforms, and copyright law.

## Moderator



**GEORGE HWANG**

*George Hwang LLC,  
Singapore*

George Hwang is a duo-qualified lawyer with over two decades of experience specializing in IP/IT and Media Law. As the founder and director of George Hwang LLC, he has developed expertise in cross-border transactions, litigation, and regulatory matters. His commitment to human rights and freedom of expression is evident through his roles as a trial observer for the International Bar Association and as a legal advisor in high-profile media cases, including the defending Roy Ngerng, a blogger, who was sued for defamation by the Prime Minister.

Throughout his career, George has made notable contributions to the entertainment and media industry, serving as General Manager at Warner Music Publishing (Hong Kong) Ltd, where he introduced IT innovations in copyright reporting. He has been commissioned by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to report on the Digital Music Market in Asia and is currently pioneering a course on IP contracts in the Entertainment and Media Industry for IPOS Academy's 2025 program. His academic roles also include teaching Media Law at various tertiary institutions and contributing to WIPO's Training of Trainers Projects for ASEAN and Indonesia.

George has dabbled in journalism before obtaining his LL.M. from King's College London, with articles published in "The Sunday Times" in Singapore, and "The Nation" in Thailand. George's involvement in shaping media law policy is reflected in his numerous publications and conference presentations. He currently serves as the Chair of the Copyright Committee for the Licensing Executives Society International.

## Speakers



**NEIL TOBING**

*PT Visi Media Asia Tbk,  
Indonesia*

Neil R. Tobing is a seasoned lawyer with over 20 years of experience in the technology and media sectors, specializing in regulatory matters related to digital media and broadcasting. He serves as a Director of PT Visi Media Asia Tbk and as a Commissioner of PT Lativi Mediakarya, known as tvOne, which is one of Indonesia's leading news and sports channels. Additionally, Neil has held significant positions such as Vice Chairman of the Indonesian Private Television Association (ATVSI) and Secretary General of the Indonesia Advertising Council (DPI).

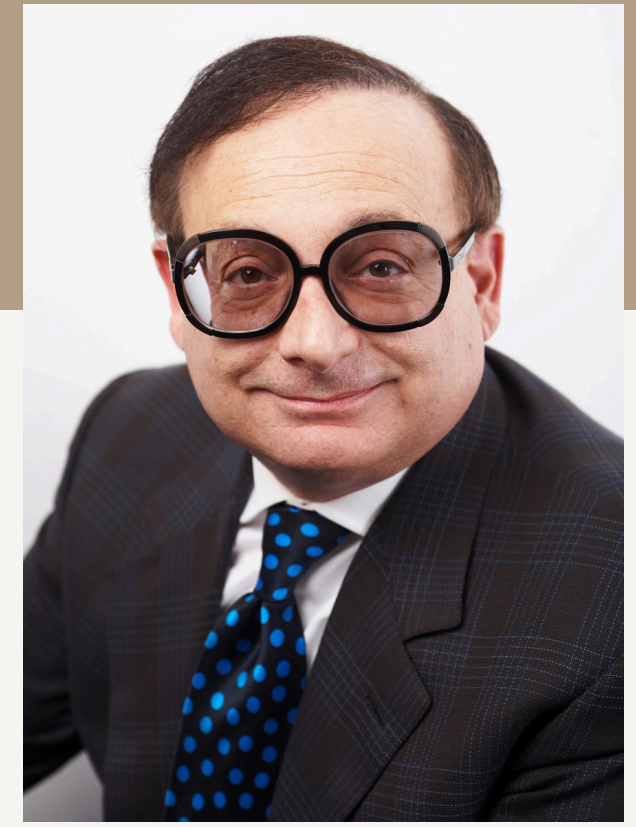
His contributions extend to the Indonesia Telematics Society (MASTEL), where he leads the Digital Broadcast and New Media Division. Neil played a crucial role in a task force established by the Indonesia Press Council, which proposed and drafted the Publisher's Rights Regulation. This regulation, effective from 20 August 2024, aims to redefine the relationship between media publishers and global digital platforms, promoting collaboration for industry sustainability.

Neil holds a master's degree in Media, Information Technology Laws, and International Business from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and is currently pursuing a PhD at Padjajaran University in Bandung, Indonesia. He remains committed to fostering a vibrant journalism ecosystem that empowers media publishers while ensuring the delivery of high-quality journalism to the public.

Harry was born in the US State of Connecticut where he grew up attending local schools. He received his bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Rochester (New York) and a Juris Doctor from the New York University School of Law. He also holds a PhD in Law from Macquarie University and a graduate diploma in law from Kings College (London). In addition, he was awarded a Masters in Astrophysics from Western Sydney University.

Harry currently holds academic positions at both the University of Sydney US Studies Centre and Macquarie University Law School. He teaches courses in Media Law and International Private Law at Macquarie. He was formerly a partner in the international law firm of White & Case, resident in the Los Angeles office. Currently, he maintains his own law practice in Sydney specialising in Australian-American cross-border dispute resolution.

He has written two books on media law and has presented and published numerous papers concerning aspects of media law and conflict of laws. Harry frequently appears on local media and speaks to civic groups on legal and political topics of current interest.



**HARRY MELKONIAN**  
*Melkonian & Co,  
Australia*



**MATTIA DALLA COSTA**  
*CBA Studio Legale,  
Italy/EU*

Mattia Dalla Costa is a distinguished attorney admitted to both the Italian and German Bars, with more than 20 years of legal experience. Fluent in five languages, he serves a diverse range of industries, from fashion and luxury to automotive and aerospace, providing expert guidance on intellectual property and IT infringement.

Mattia's extensive work in protecting and enforcing IP rights has earned him a reputation as a leader in his field. He has held prominent roles, such as President of LES Licensing Executives Society - Italy and Vice President of LES International.

His accolades include being named "Lawyer of the Year 2024 - Copyright" by the "Legalcommunity IP&TMT Awards", reflecting his significant contributions to Italian law. He has also been named in Chamber Europe 2024 and LEGAL500 2024.