

# The Development of Philippine Copyright Law

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The Author traces the developments of Philippine Copyright Law as an evolution of intellectual property rights. The emergence of an intangible aspect of property right demanded more relevant laws to address individual needs of ownership. From the first incarnation of Copyright Law under the Spanish Copyright Law until the recent Intellectual Property Code of 1998 (Republic Act 8293), the growing needs of technological advancements necessitated new ways of thinking and seeing property rights.

The Article also elaborates on new concepts in Copyright Law absent in previous statutes. Multimedia works and databases are now protected. Labels have been removed from the ambit of copyright protection. New rights of first distribution or first sale are granted by the Code, as well as strengthening the creator's ownership over his work. Mirroring United States Copyright Act, a fair use provision has also been inserted. Penal sanctions have also been reinforced for further protection to the owner.

Recent and relevant jurisprudence to the field of Copyright Law are also examined by the Article.