

# Legal Update from Flagler Law Group



**Our Mission is to serve the legal needs of Christian publishing organizations by leveraging focused expertise into practical solutions.**

Brian Flagler founded Flagler Law Group in the spring of 2006 to serve the legal needs of publishers, designers, producers, and distributors of Christian media. With a combined 20+ years in the industry, we know Christian publishing. We believe that our experience handling matters for a diverse variety of Christian publishers, ministries, and other organizations from the publishing perspective significantly contributes to the value that we offer our clients.

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## LEGAL HOTLINE:

For new ECPA members and smaller ECPA houses that do not currently have access to experienced publishing counsel, ECPA offers the ECPA Publishers Legal Hotline. In partnership with Flagler Law Group, the Hotline is available to assist these members as they establish publishing procedures, navigate rights issues, and encounter other questions within the Scope of Service. Subscribers may pose questions to publishing counsel by telephone or email and receive the Hotline discount: Flagler Law Group makes up to five (5) hours of its publishing attorneys' time available to each eligible subscriber at 30 percent off of their regular rates. Visit the [ECPA.org](http://ECPA.org) website for more information.

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## ECPA Stops Infringement of Bible Translations

*By Craig Gipson and Brian Flagler*

An ECPA-led group of publishers successfully stopped the infringement of more than 50 Bible translations by an Australian website. ECPA contacted the website [www.churchsw.org](http://www.churchsw.org) in December 2015 to notify the owner that he was violating copyright and unfair competition laws by making unauthorized Bible translations available for download. During the next two months, the owner removed all unauthorized Bible translations from his websites and entered into a settlement agreement whereby he agreed that he had removed all infringing Bible translations and that he would not infringe any work to which an ECPA member owns or controls rights.

This case is the latest example of ECPA and Flagler Law Group's ongoing effort to protect members' intellectual property. Part of ECPA's correspondence with the owner of [www.churchsw.org](http://www.churchsw.org) included a copy of the judgement obtained by ECPA members from an English court in 2008 against the proprietors of [www.biblecentre.net](http://www.biblecentre.net). That case prevented numerous ECPA member copyrighted works from being offered illegally and resulted in legal sanctions against the perpetrator. ECPA also worked with authorities in Nigeria in recent years to combat an increase in the number of pirated Christian books being imported into that country.

Special thanks to Tyndale House Publishers, HarperCollins Christian Publishers, and American Bible Society, for their efforts in halting the infringement of many valuable Bible translations. Please [contact ECPA](#) or [Flagler Law Group](#) if you are aware of wide-reaching infringement that should be addressed.

## STAY TUNED... LEGAL UPDATE ON FAIR USE CASE

May schools (and potentially other non-profit organizations) offer unlicensed digital content and be protected by fair use? Flagler Law Group is preparing a Legal Update for ECPA members on the latest developments in the Georgia State University fair use case and its impact on publishers.

If you want others in your organization informed, have them subscribe to Legal Updates through their [ECPA.org](http://ECPA.org) profile or by [contacting ECPA](#).

This update is provided as an informational service of ECPA to its members and does not serve as, and should not be understood to provide, legal advice. Please contact [Brian Flagler](#) or your attorney if you would like to discuss application of this update to the specific circumstances of your publishing organization.

For more information about ECPA programs, contact us at 480-966-3998 or consult our website at [www.ecpa.org](http://www.ecpa.org). ECPA members may subscribe to Legal Updates by contacting [stoomb@ecpa.org](mailto:stoomb@ecpa.org).

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