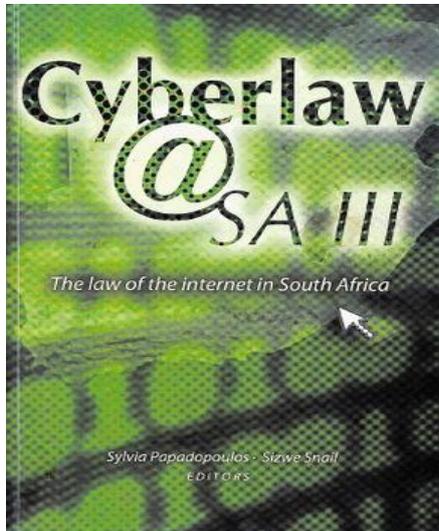


How to navigate murky cyber waters

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A new text book for employers touches on issues they can now be held liable for, which have been committed by their employees online



IN the late 1970s, there was an advert which went something like this: "As the world is gradually approaching the 21st century its technological reasoning power becomes increasingly sophisticated and that is progress."

That was a cigarette manufacturer advertising its cigarette brand called Progress. Our late English teacher, Screamer Mabuza, may his soul rest in peace, made us recite that advert to appreciate the advancement of technology. The advent of the information age and technological progress continue to evolve on how we use the internet.

We can now find long lost friends and family members through social networks like Facebook and constantly communicate with friends via Twitter. A lot has evolved. Whoever thought you could transfer money from one account to the other without visiting your bank? The rise in the use of cellphones has made mobile e-commerce more consumer orientated. The increase has also sparked the need to protect consumers in that space.

Sizwe Snail, of Snail Attorneys and Associates, says regardless of perceived ethical or enforcement limitations, laws have become increasingly significant, from consumer protection, the protection of copyright to the enforcement of online contracts.

He has co-edited Cyberlaw@SA III: the Law of the Internet in South Africa. It is a handy text book for employers as it touches on issues they can now be held liable for, which have been committed by their employees online.

It will be launched on Wednesday to coincide with the International Cyberlaw Conference, which will run from Wednesday to Friday at the FNB Conference and Learning Centre in Sandton, Johannesburg.

For bookings and more information about the gathering of legal minds who will touch on cyber issues contact Sizwe Snail on +27 083-477-4377, e-mail at Ssnail@snailattorneys.com or visit this website: www.lex-informatica.org or www.snailattorneys.com

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