

13.12: Introduction to Intellectual Property

What you'll learn to do: explain the purpose and characteristics of intellectual property law

This section is an introduction to intellectual property law, including the principles as established in the Constitution, significant changes and issues and the implications for business, society and the economy. We'll discuss the purpose of intellectual property law, define and differentiate between types of assets and property rights and outline the associated statutory criteria, rights, terms and duration of protection. Terms presented include intangible asset, intellectual property, patents, copyrights and trademarks.

Intellectual Property underpins nearly every aspect of our economy – it supports good paying jobs, it supports the arts, sciences and technology, and it creates a framework that allows new industries and innovations to flourish.

— Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the Constitution

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