

## BELIZE (BZ)

### I. LEGISLATIVE PROFILE

#### 1. National Legislation



**Capital:** Belmopan  
**Population:** 247,000

##### a. Industrial Property

###### Patents:

- Patents Act (CAP. 253 of the Substantive Laws of Belize) 2000.
- Patents Act (Commencement) Order, 2001 (Statutory Instrument No. 10 of 2001).
- Patents Regulations, 2001 (Statutory Instrument No. 92 of 2001).

###### Trade Marks:

- Trade Marks Act (CAP. 257 of the Substantive Laws of Belize) 2000.
- Trade Marks Act (Commencement) Order, 2001 (Statutory Instrument No. 7 of 2001).
- Trade Mark Rules, 2001 (Statutory Instrument No. 8 of 2001).

###### Industrial Designs:

- Industrial Designs Act (CAP. 254 of the Substantive Laws of Belize) 2000.
- Industrial Designs Act (Commencement) Order, 2001 (No. 11 of 2001).
- Industrial Designs Regulations, 2001 (No. 16 of 2001).

##### b. Copyright and Related Rights

###### Copyright:

- Copyright Act (CAP. 252 of the Substantive Laws of Belize) 2000.
- Copyright (Specified Countries) Order, 2001 (No. 75 of 2001).
- Copyright Act (Commencement) Order, 2000 (No. 77 of 2000).

###### Related Rights:

As above, under Copyright (the Copyright Act, CAP. 252).

##### c. Other Country-Specific Legislation or Activities

###### Utility Models:

As above, under Patents (Patents Act, CAP. 253).

###### Appellations of Origin / Geographical Indications / Indications of Source:

As above, under Trade Marks (Trade Marks Act, CAP. 257).

###### Layout Designs (Topographics) of Integrated Circuits:

- Protection of Layout Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuits Act (CAP. 256 of the Substantive Laws of Belize) 2000.
- Protection of Layout Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuits Act (Commencement) Order, 2001 (No. 106 of 2001).
- Protection of Layout Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuits Regulations, 2001 (No. 115 of 2001).

Plant Variety Protection:

- Protection of New Plant Varieties Act (CAP. 255 of the Substantive Laws of Belize) 2000.
- Protection of New Plant Varieties Act (Commencement) Order, 2001 (No. 105 of 2001).
- Protection of New Plant Varieties Regulations, 2001 (No. 116 of 2001).

## d. Sources for Information on National Laws

Internet Website: [www.belize-law.org](http://www.belize-law.org)

**2. Membership of International Bodies**a. Membership of WIPO Treaties:

- WIPO Convention, since June 2000.
- Paris Convention (Industrial Property), since , since June 2000.
- Berne Convention (Literary and Artistic Works), since June 2000.
- PCT (Patents), since June 2000.
- Hague Agreement (International Deposit of Industrial Designs), since July 2003

b. WTO: Member and Signatory to TRIPS Agreement, since January 1995.c. Membership of other bodies/treaties:

None

**II. ADMINISTRATION****1. Industrial Property**Supervisory Ministry:

Attorney General's Ministry	Tel.:	(501.82)	22.154
East Block Building, Cayo District			22.504
Belmopan			22.110
<i>Title of Head:</i> Attorney General and	Fax:	(501.82)	23.390
Minister of Information			21.382
	E-mail :	<a href="mailto:access@btl.net">access@btl.net</a>	

Industrial Property Office:

Belize Intellectual Property Office (BELIPO)	Tel.:	(501.82)	21.381/
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Habet Building			22.073
P.O. Box 592	Fax:	(501.82)	21.382
Constitution Drive	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:belipo@btl.net">belipo@btl.net</a>	
Belmopan		<a href="mailto:Info@belipo.bz">Info@belipo.bz</a>	
<i>Title of Head :</i> Registrar General	Internet website :	<a href="http://www.belipo.bz">http://www.belipo.bz</a>	

**2. Copyright and Related Rights**Supervisory Ministry:

As above, under Supervisory Ministry.

Copyright Office:

As above, under Industrial Property.

Collective Management Societies:

Information not available.

**III. AUTHORITIES ENFORCING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**Industrial Property Tribunal:

The Supreme Court of Belize has jurisdiction over civil law aspects of intellectual property rights infringement cases.

Copyright Tribunal:

As above, under Industrial Property Tribunal.

Other:

Office of Chief Parliamentary Counsel	Tel.:	(501.8)	231.95
Attorney General's Ministry	Fax:	(501.8)	231.98
As above, under Supervisory Ministry for Industrial Property.	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:parliament@btl.net">parliament@btl.net</a>	

The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Tel.:	(501.2)	73.148
63 Regent Street			70.668
P.O. Box 291	Fax:	(501.2)	74.984
Belize City	Email:	<a href="mailto:bcci@btl.net">bcci@btl.net</a>	

Solicitor General	Tel.:	(501.8)	22.154
As above, under Supervisory Ministry for Industrial Property.			22.504

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	Tel.:	(501.2)	77.386
Belize City			77.387
	Fax:	(501.2)	70.297

**IV. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TEACHING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

None.

**V. INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY STATISTICS**

Applications filed and/or registered for 2001:

		Patents	Trade Marks	Industrial Designs
Applications by:	residents	0	1	0
	non-residents	3	36	0
Grants to:	residents	0	1	0
	non-residents	3	0	0

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Applications by residents and non-residents:	88,533 (non-residents only)
Grants to residents and non-residents:	Information not available