

REVIEW

on the dissertation of Ansagan Kuspanovich Aronov "Mechanisms of Copyright Protection in the Digital Age: Comparison of International Practices"

The dissertation research of Ansagan Kuspanovich Aronov on the topic "Mechanisms of Copyright Protection in the Digital Age: Comparison of International Practices", submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty 8D04201 – "International Law," is devoted to a highly relevant and timely issue in contemporary legal science.

In the context of rapid digital transformation, the development of the Internet, and the emergence of artificial intelligence technologies, traditional copyright law faces fundamentally new challenges. The dissertation convincingly demonstrates that existing legal mechanisms are insufficient to address large-scale copyright infringement in the digital environment, thereby substantiating the need for modernization of both national and international legal frameworks.

The research constitutes one of the first comprehensive and systematic studies in Kazakhstan dedicated to copyright protection in the digital age. The author not only analyses the transformation of copyright mechanisms under the influence of modern technologies such as the Internet, P2P networks, AI systems, blockchain, and mass digitization, but also develops a coherent theoretical and normative framework adapted to the digital environment.

A distinctive feature of the dissertation is the formulation and substantiation of the concept of "copyright dualism," which reflects the coexistence of traditional copyright and a distinct system of copyright relations in the digital environment. The author convincingly argues that digital copyright is characterized by specific subjects (including Internet intermediaries), objects (digital works), and methods of protection, which require differentiated legal regulation.

The scientific novelty of the dissertation is expressed in several key aspects:

1. Conceptual contribution – development of the theory of copyright dualism, demonstrating the necessity of recognizing the digital environment as a distinct sphere of copyright regulation;

2. Doctrinal innovation – formulation of original legal definitions of "digital environment," "copyright in the digital environment," and "service provider," which eliminate conceptual inconsistencies present in current legislation, including the Digital Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

3. Comparative analysis – a detailed study of the legal approaches of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, particularly in relation to intermediary liability, digital enforcement mechanisms, and AI-generated works, with reasoned proposals for their adaptation to the Kazakh legal system;

4. Legislative proposals – substantiated recommendations for improving national legislation, including:

- introduction of a legal definition of the digital environment into the Civil Code;
- recognition of digitized works as independent copyright objects;
- establishment of liability of Internet intermediaries;
- implementation of a notice-and-takedown mechanism;
- clarification of authorship in relation to AI-assisted works, based on the principle of human creative contribution.

Particular attention is given to the problem of mass digitization of works without the consent of authors, which significantly increases the risks of infringement and demonstrates the need for clearer legal regulation. The dissertation also provides a well-reasoned position on the protection of AI-generated works, maintaining the central role of human authorship while recognizing the legal relevance of AI-assisted creativity.

The methodological basis of the research is solid and appropriate to its objectives. The author employs doctrinal, comparative, historical, and case-law analysis, which allows for a

comprehensive and systematic examination of the subject matter. The study relies on a wide range of sources, including international treaties (Berne Convention, WIPO Internet Treaties, TRIPS), national legislation, judicial practice, and leading academic scholarship.

The analysis of landmark cases from Napster to The Pirate Bay demonstrates the author's ability to critically assess the evolution of copyright enforcement in the digital environment and to draw conclusions relevant to Kazakhstan.

The dissertation is not limited to theoretical analysis but offers practical and implementable recommendations aimed at improving copyright protection in Kazakhstan. These include the development of a balanced model of intermediary liability, the integration of modern technological tools (DRM, blockchain, Creative Commons), and the enhancement of enforcement mechanisms.

The results of the research possess both theoretical and practical significance. They may be applied in legislative activity, judicial practice, contractual drafting, and the teaching of intellectual property law.

The dissertation demonstrates the author's high level of scientific independence, analytical thinking, and ability to work with complex comparative material. The candidate shows a strong capacity to integrate international experience with national legal needs.

The results of the research have been reflected in a series of publications in national and international journals, which confirms the academic maturity of the candidate and the relevance of the topic within the scholarly community.

Thus, the dissertation "Mechanisms of Copyright Protection in the Digital Age: Comparison of International Practices" is a scientifically grounded, original, and practically significant work. It makes a substantial contribution to the development of copyright law in Kazakhstan and addresses pressing challenges of the digital era.

The dissertation fully meets the requirements for doctoral research, and in my opinion, Ansgan Kusanovich Aronov deserves to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty 8D04201 – "International Law".

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