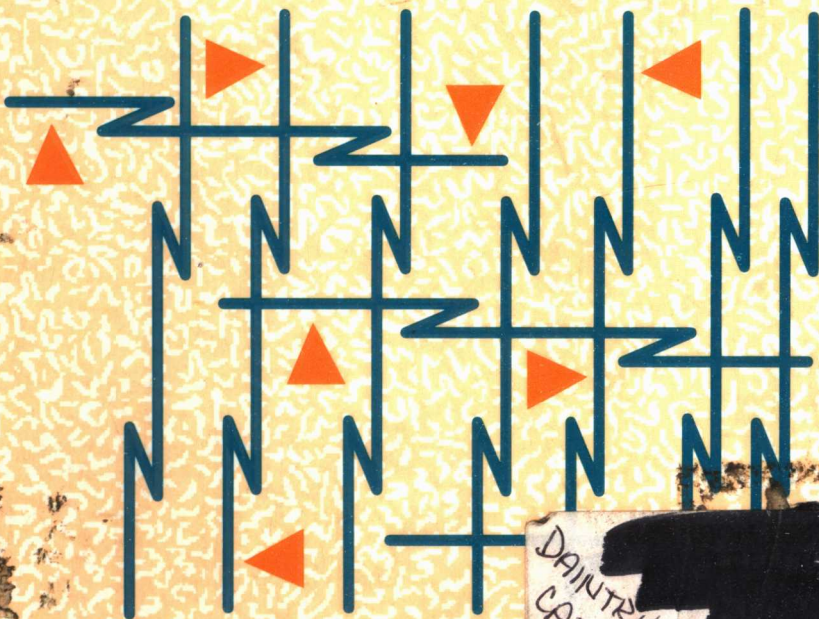


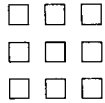


Electronic Media Law and Regulation



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Butler University



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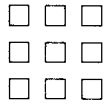
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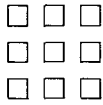
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Preface

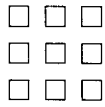
The electronic media are nearing a major evolutionary leap. How we listen to radio and watch television will have changed dramatically by the year 2000. Just as cable television and VCRs in the 1980s changed the role of broadcast television, so will high-definition television and digital audio broadcasting alter the landscape further. Convergence—the coming together of various media—will blur the lines of demarcation between broadcasting, cable, satellite, and fiber optic telephone line delivery of entertainment and information services.

Although new electronic media continue to develop rapidly in the laboratory, the legal and regulatory framework of our society works to moderate change. New technologies, while technically possible, present questions of social policy that may make some of them neither politically nor economically feasible. We have only recently begun to establish legal precedent in media law. The first cases in which the Supreme Court ruled on First Amendment issues occurred in the early 1900s.

The study of the law and regulation of the electronic media remains an important component in the college curriculum. In spite of the deregulation of the '80s, the Communications Act of 1934 remains largely intact. The complex relationships between broadcasting, cable, and other media subject to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) jurisdiction are dynamic, and the relationships these media have with society are reflected in the decisions of the courts, in the legislation passed by Congress, and by the presidents we elect.

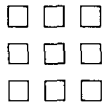
This book focuses on the laws and regulations that affect broadcasting and cable communications. It is designed for students and professionals who wish to understand the major issues and regulations facing the electronic media. This book proceeds from the premise that students should engage original text of major court cases and FCC decisions to better understand electronic media regulations. Because this is an introductory text, only the most important portions of these cases have been selected. By reading these cases, the reader can more easily understand the essence and importance of each case to the specific subject under study.

It is difficult to keep abreast of current laws and regulations affecting the electronic media. No one book can accomplish that feat. Readers interested in up-to-the-minute changes should consult periodicals. However, this book does provide a foundation for understanding how and why the electronic media are regulated as they are.



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