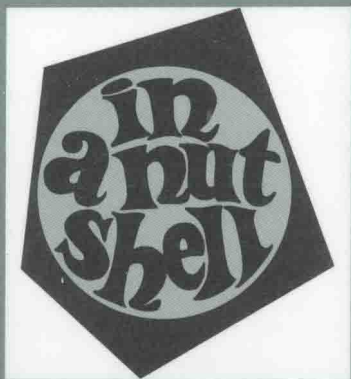


Copyright Law



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COPYRIGHT LAW

IN A NUTSHELL

By

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PREFACE

This book is for anyone who needs a concise but thorough introduction to copyright law. It is aimed at lawyers, students, artists, authors, and businesspersons, as well as intelligent consumers who just want to know more about the copyright issues reported by the media.

Copyright law has grown increasingly complex over the years. Also, there are many misconceptions that are surprisingly persistent, and new misconceptions arising all the time. A better understanding of copyright law will prevent costly mistakes, avoid unnecessary litigation, encourage consumers to take an active interest in legislative proposals, and enable authors and artists to focus on their creative work without the distraction of legal entanglements.

The book assumes that the reader has no prior knowledge of copyright law, but it does not shy away from addressing aspects of the law which are ambiguous, in a state of flux, or the subject of conflicting opinions from courts and commentators. Where the law is still evolving, the text identifies the areas of uncertainty and the most recent authorities that have attempted a resolution. The text also notes areas where further legislation is needed or is currently under consideration.

Because federal copyright law is a creature of statute, every aspect of copyright law addressed in the book is accompanied by references to the perti-

PREFACE

ment statutes and, where appropriate, their legislative histories. The most important aspects of each statute are discussed in the text, so that the reader can derive a good understanding of the material from the text alone. However, all of the relevant statutory citations are included in the text for those who wish to develop their understanding further.

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