

BOOK REVIEW

ISSUES IN INTERNET LAW: SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE LAW, 2008 EDITION

**[ISSUES IN INTERNET LAW: SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY, & THE
LAW] [PAPERBACK]**

KEITH B. DARRELL

Rodney D. Ryder

The text is a concise publication on the Internet and the laws governing it, written in a way that simplifies even complex legal issues. The 2009 edition has been well updated, with added terms for the glossary, as well as new cases and headings. The book has touched upon all the legal topics relating to the Internet, from chat rooms, emails, cyber crimes, spyware, phishing and social networks to domain name disputes. Advances in technology have always changed societies, and there has never been as far-reaching and profound an advance as the Internet. If you engage in a transaction online, was that online contract you clicked on really enforceable, even if you scrolled down and did not read it? Is receiving pornography in office e-mail from your co-workers sexual harassment? Can stalkers find your personal information online? What can you legally place on your website? And what is not allowed? Do you own your domain name? Can a public library censor your use of its Internet-linked computers? Who else can read your e-mail? Is it legal to gamble online? How “private” is your private information after you disclose it to a website? Is a student exercising his First Amendment rights when he creates a hate website on a public school’s Internet server? Do other countries address these issues differently from the U.S.? Which country’s laws apply on the Internet? These are just some of the issues addressed in this book.

Issues in Internet Law: Society, Technology, and the Law can be read by the common man to develop an awareness of issues in Internet Law and is also designed for use as a textbook.

Every topic of the book is well researched, and gives an overview of the topic in the first few pages along with some cases before coming to an exhaustive explanation on the topic. Anyone who uses the Internet would find this book useful, particularly those who blog, own a site or who are involved in frequent e-transactions. Although it deals with the complex legal issues surrounding the Internet, it is written in layman’s terms and illustrated with

“ripped from the headlines” court cases.

This book in particular is for the common man, but lawyers and law students alike can benefit and obtain an insight into the world of Internet Laws. In relation to the structuring of the book, the summary, notes and quizzes at the end of each chapter are commendable and assist the readers in memorizing and understanding the topics better.

As the electronic world (of which the Internet forms an important part) is changing quite rapidly, it is difficult for lawmakers to catch up with the changing dimensions of the Internet. Books like *Issues in Internet Law: Society, Technology, and the Law* help bridge the gap between the existing law and the change. Further, the simplicity of language in the book is more helpful than legal jargon.

The Internet is like a giant snake slithering across every country – each nation focuses on the portion of the snake it sees and tries to apply its jurisprudence to that portion. *Issues in Internet Law: Society, Technology, and the Law* looks at the attempts of nations to overlay their laws upon the Internet. The 2009 edition of *Issues in Internet Law: Society, Technology, and the Law* has been updated with the latest cases and trends in Internet Law. To elaborate on the topics included, the following issues are addressed: privacy (invasion of privacy, public records, workplace privacy, employer & ISP monitoring, data retention & data breaches, e-mail & chat room privacy, web site privacy policies, behavioural marketing, privacy and children); free speech (defamation, SLAPPs, gripe sites, blogs & vlogs, obscenity & pornography, harassment & hate speech, prior restraint & repression), cybercrimes (spam, phishing, identity theft, spyware & malware, cyber-stalking); intellectual property (copyright, trademark, patent, trade secrets, creative commons, linking, framing, file-sharing, fair use, public domain, work-made-for-hire, VARA, linking & framing, domain name disputes, keyword advertising, right of publicity); web contracts, web accessibility; net neutrality; Internet interstate commerce; online reputation management; podcasts; and social networks.

Such a book would be immensely helpful if introduced in the curriculum of Indian schools. It would help young students obtain an insight into the dynamic jurisprudence of Internet law. With the number of India’s Internet users increasing, it is imperative that schools adopt this book in a way which would help young students gain knowledge about the various issues involving the Internet.