

"Copyright Protection for Creators of Television Shows and Television Show Formats"

Short description

In addition to the legal analysis of all relevant work arising in connection with television shows (presentation, games, quiz questions, music/jingles/sound effects, show interludes, sets, costumes, masks, graphics, etc.) the dissertation mainly addresses the issue whether show formats are protected under German law – in particular against unlicensed use of one or more format elements by the competition.

This issue which is currently being debated world-wide and which is of great significance for the television industry is discussed for the purpose of practical illustration with reference to concrete television formats such as "Wetten, dass..?" – "Wanna Bet..?" (ZDF, Germany) or "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" (Celador, UK).

Conclusion: the copyright protection for television show formats according to the principles of the German Copyright Act goes much further than previously assumed by the relevant court decisions and literature.

Furthermore, this book contains, with regard to format-developers, a special, practice-oriented catalogue of preventive measures which can help suppliers disclosing their formats/concepts in contractual negotiations to protect themselves against subsequent undesired exploitation of their formats/concepts. This catalogue of preventive measures can be used by anyone who develops concepts, throughout the copyright law field.

A further special feature of this book, as compared to other books on film and TV law, is that this practice handbook begins with a facts-section of over 40 pages where, alongside current developments in the TV industry, first and foremost all those facts relating to the television and format industry which are significant for legal assessment are explained in detail (research of the facts) before the real legal examination begins.

The book is therefore aimed not only at lawyers operating in the film/TV industry but in particular at people typically involved in the production of a television show, in front of and behind the camera, as well as individuals or companies who develop, buy or sell formats (format-developers, television production companies, broadcasting companies etc.).