

**RULES OF THE ROAD FOR THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND THE LAW** by Benkler, Yochai  
West Publishing Company, 809 pages

This book provides a comprehensive treatment of the rapidly developing field of information law. It is organized into eight parts: Part I defines the communications law field; Part II elucidates the law of commercial transactions between users including contract formation, electronic data interchange and electronic fund transfers; Part III discusses the law of public networks including the regulatory environment, impact of such regulations upon Constitutional protections, security and confidentiality issues, and related network provider liability. Part IV deals with the nature and extent of electronic mail in the workplace. Part V elucidates torts between users including reputational injuries, injurious invasions, and interference with communications. Part VI covers the nexus between E-mail and lawyers including such issues as pretrial practice, evidence, and attorney-client communications. Part VII addresses the nature of copyright protection and its impact upon distribution, public display, and public performance activities accomplished on the Internet and the like. Finally, Part VIII covers the issues associated with communicating with government agencies.

Based on the scope and size of this text, an effective index is crucial to locating topics of interest. The index is generally intuitive to use although cross-referencing is often inadequate. For example, if you were seeking issues related to E-mail encryption you would find no listing, unless you directly sought encryption. But, as suggested by the index, the encryption material does not address E-mail issues as much as technical methods for protecting electronic communications. As another example, Employee E-mail monitoring, on the other hand, is extensively cross-referenced. Several aspects of this evolving concern in the workplace is thoroughly examined. Surprisingly, the important subject of electronic signatures as a means of identifying the source of downloads and the like, particularly in view of the plethora misdeeds being perpetrated in the form of viruses and hard-disk invasions, is omitted. Thus, while affording a comprehensive resource for gaining insight into the rules of Internet travel, this book appears to offer only a paucity of authoritative current cases; the cases cited throughout the text generally antedated the "information superhighway" as we know it.