The Legal Challenges of Social Media

Elgar Law, Technology and Society series

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Social media enables instant access to individual self-expression and the sharing of information. Social media issues are boundless, permeating distinct legal disciplines. The law has struggled to adapt and for good reason: how does the law regulate this medium over the public/private law divide? This book engages with the legal implications of social media from public and private law perspectives and outlines how the law, in various legal sub-disciplines and with varying success, has endeavoured to adapt existing tools to social media.

‘After the legal challenges caused by the internet in general, the interactive web 2.0 added another dimension of legal complexity with social media as the most prominent exponent. This book brings together the best experts, and offers sharp analyses from the angle of the rule of law, contempt of court, press regulation, freedom of expression, working places, complaints, liability and human rights. The book cuts across legal disciplines and explores new paths, making it a valuable addition to the field of internet law.’
– Arno R. Lodder, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands

‘In the early years of the World Wide Web, legal scholars predicted that much of the conventional wisdom on information policy would be challenged by full, democratic access to mass distribution and publication. This terrific collection of essays breathes new life into the middle-aged problems of “cheap speech”. Each contribution elegantly serves up big, foundational problems in the law through focused examination of specific topics, such as how social media has driven up the use of harassment laws and contempt of court orders, or how private intermediaries decide what a “joke” is. This collection will be both educational and a sheer joy to read for anybody with a serious or casual interest in communications law.’
– Jane Bambauer, University of Arizona, US

‘Mangan and Gillies have managed, through this collection of work, to strike a very difficult balance: this book is accessible to a wide range of audiences, yet it provides a depth of analysis and insight that will make it invaluable to media law scholars and practitioners. The legal challenges associated with our use of social media will continue to develop at pace. Thus, collection is, at once, fascinating, valuable and timely. Consequently, it will no doubt act as a catalyst for further work, and publications in this area, as well as being a valuable and well-cited resource.’
– Entertainment Law Review

2017 352 pp Hardback 978 1 78536 450 1 £105.00  £94.50  $155.00  $139.50
Elgaronline 978 1 78536 451 8

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