1. Intellectual property law: an introduction

Contemporary Intellectual Property: Law and Policy (5th edn)
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Publisher: Oxford University Press  Print ISBN-13: 9780198799801
Print Publication Date: Aug 2019  DOI: 10.1093/he/9780198799801.003.0001
Published online: Sep 2019  © Abbe Brown, Smita Kheria, Jane Cornwell, and Marta Iljadica 2019

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DOI: 10.1093/he/9780198799801.003.0001

This chapter provides an accessible introduction to intellectual property (IP) law. It provides and challenges some definitions of intellectual property law and IP itself. It discusses the development of IP law as a field of study in an increasingly global context and presents a realistic view of the law as it actually operates; the relationships between different levels of IP law—at national, European, European Union, and international levels; the various influences on the formation, justifications for, and development of IP law including between IP law and other legal fields; and the tensions that arise from different perspectives when the law seeks to protect IP.

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