

Criminal Law News

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The Internet and criminal issues arising

Sally Ramage

Internet law is a broad term and it applies to a very wide body of legal issues, including intellectual property, privacy, contract law, employment law and electronic evidence.

Copyright infringement

A recent copyright lawsuit filed by Playboy against a man who had published nearly 7,500 of the magazine's photos online without permission. A court awarded Playboy more than \$3.7 million in damages for the man's copyright infringement.

Click-fraud

There is 'click-fraud' which is an online crime in which bogus clicks are used to defraud advertisers who pay for Web traffic by the click. Cybersquatting is a criminal offence committed by people who register another person's trademark as a domain name. Trademarks themselves have taken on a new importance on the Internet. Privacy issues come into play when we consider whether Internet companies should be able to use information they collect online; the limits of any use; privacy policies for websites; and the privacy of information about children. ...

The full article can be bought from Westlaw, Thomson Reuters.

Phone hacking in the UK and US

Sally Ramage

In January 2011, UK Police revived an investigation into the newspaper hacking scandal in September 2010 even though in December 2010, the Director of Public Prosecutions had announced that there was no evidence to bring charges over phone-hacking claims at the newspaper. The hacking concerned an assistant editor who had hacked voicemails, allegedly with the knowledge of her superior.

Phone hacking in the US

On 7 January 2011, the Supreme Court of California ruled that law enforcement officers can legally search text messages on a suspect's cell phone without a warrant incident to a lawful custodial arrest. ¹ The court held that a search of the defendant's cell phone text messages in the police station 90 minutes after the arrest did not violate the Fourth Amendment since...

The full article can be bought from Westlaw, Thomson Reuters.

Environmental crimes- fraud and corruption

Sally Ramage

The Cancun Climate Summit took place from 29 November to 10 December 2010, and measures to preserve forests were not quite sorted and settled as expected. The UN wish to see a reduction in carbon emissions through payments to poorer countries to preserve their forests, because about 20% of all CO2 emissions are due to global deforestation. Such protection of forests would lead to better erosion control, water quality and biodiversity. Since the 2005 proposition, there has been no unilateral agreement. It has now been agreed to leave the matter until 2013. The agreement has much financial potential to poorer countries...

The full article can be bought from Westlaw, Thomson Reuters.

Coroners

Sally Ramage

Coroners occupy a unique place in the justice system of England and Wales. There are three kinds of coroners. The Coroner *virtute officii* are the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench and is Supreme Coroner. *Virtute cartae sive commissionis*, is the name of coroners by charter, by commission, or privilege, pre-empted from the operation of the statute 28 Ed.S, c.6, which confirmed to the county the power of electing Coroners. Thus the mayor of London is by charter Coroner of London.

The Cinque Ports (around the Kent coast), from their great antiquity, have their own Coroner...

The full article can be bought from Westlaw, Thomson Reuters.

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