



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, ARTS, & TECHNOLOGY CLINIC

Highlighted Project: DMCA Exemptions

In 2015, the clinic was lead counsel for nationwide coalitions of filmmakers and authors that successfully petitioned the Library of Congress for exemptions to the copyright laws in order to protect creators' ability to make "fair use." Filmmakers and authors have long held the right to make fair use of copyrighted material for uses like criticism and commentary. But the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, enacted in 1998, made it illegal—and in some cases, a crime—to access copyrighted content by breaking technological protection measures like encryption. The result is a deeply chilling effect on both filmmaking and authorship. For more than a year, clinic students advocated in an intensive, multi-stage rulemaking process that Congress set up to remedy this effect. The resulting exemptions allow documentary filmmakers, as well as authors offering film analysis, to access encrypted content on formats like DVD and Blu-ray in order to criticize or comment on that content in their films and e-books.

In 2016, the clinic won a *California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year award for this work.

Intellectual Property, Arts, & Technology Clinic

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In the UCI Intellectual Property, Arts, and Technology Clinic, students work to support innovation and expression in the digital age by advising and representing clients on a range of matters dealing with copyright, patent, privacy and media law, among other areas. Clients include artists, entrepreneurs, filmmakers, nonprofits, policymakers, and scientists. Through this work, clinic students gain important legal skills while examining the role of the public interest in intellectual property and technology law.