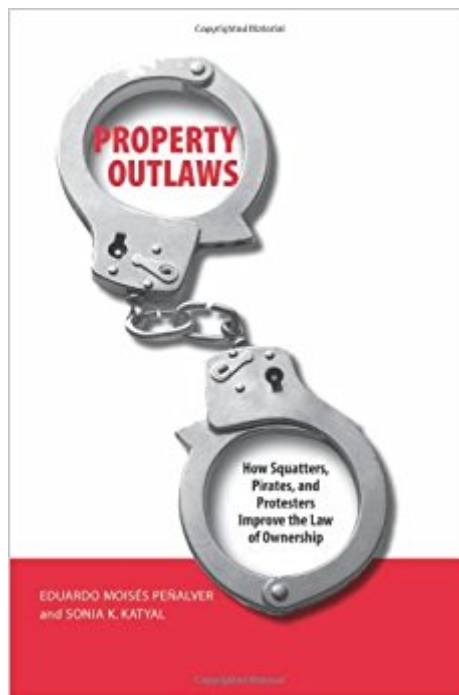




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Property Outlaws: How Squatters, Pirates, And Protesters Improve The Law Of Ownership



Synopsis

Property Outlaws puts forth the intriguingly counterintuitive proposition that, in the case of both tangible and intellectual property law, disobedience can often lead to an improvement in legal regulation. The authors argue that in property law there is a tension between the competing demands of stability and dynamism, but its tendency is to become static and fall out of step with the needs of society. The authors employ wide-ranging examples of the behaviors of property outlaws—the trespasser, squatter, pirate, or file-sharer—to show how specific behaviors have induced legal innovation. They also delineate the similarities between the actions of property outlaws in the spheres of tangible and intellectual property. An important conclusion of the book is that a dynamic between the activities of property outlaws and legal innovation should be cultivated in order to maintain this avenue of legal reform.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is essential reading for all who care about social justice and human rights. It reminds us that the status quo must be constantly questioned, challenged and reinvented to maximize just outcomes. This brilliant manifesto is an evidence-based call to action for anyone seeking to make positive change in the world. In an era of scarce and unevenly allocated resources, this book brings to light the value of disobedience to challenge failing norms and the power of marginalized individuals to change--and even improve--the legal and social order. A must-have on both the advocates' and scholars' shelves.

From the illegal occupation of tribal and federal lands by white squatters to the Indian occupation of

Alacraz Island, from the lunch counter sit-ins to the online posting of a major civil rights film without consent of the filmmaker, Peñalver and Katyal show how those excluded from property have shaped property law and ultimately social life by intentionally infringing on the rights of owners. A major achievement.

This is a beautifully executed and engrossing book about one of American society's greatest enigmas - its tolerance of those who break property laws. It is a must-read for anyone interested in land, intellectual property, or other inquiry into who has (or who can grab) what.

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