



Part 2

Legal Resources For Working Journalists

Introduction

The material in this segment of the Handbook is designed to help working reporters and news executives avoid legal problems in the everyday practice of their profession; assist them in gaining access to public meetings and documents they are entitled to cover; and help them provide the public with full, accurate and reliable information about the justice system and legal issues in the news. It is divided into five sections.

Section XIV explains the state laws and legal procedures that directly affect and dissemination in Ohio, including the laws regarding:

- libel;
- invasion of privacy; and
- journalists' privilege/shield law.

Section XV discusses and provides the actual text of:

- Ohio's state laws regarding media access to public meetings and public records; and
- the Supreme Court of Ohio's rules governing media access to state courts.

Section XVI discusses:

- how new and existing laws apply to Internet journalism;
- how the Internet has affected the "journalist" definition;
- Internet journalists and blogging;
- the application of foreign laws to Internet journalism;
- the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998.

Section XVII lists telephone numbers and Web site URLs of key sources of factual information, background discussion and commentary on a wide range of legal topics.

Section XVIII is a glossary of frequently encountered legal terms.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO READERS: This material is intended to provide basic legal information of value to journalists. It DOES NOT provide an exhaustive, all-encompassing discussion of the laws or legal topics addressed. The legal information and text of state laws provided in the following pages was current as of July 2007, but laws change and legal interpretations are constantly evolving as a result of court decisions, legislative action and administrative rulemaking. In any real-world legal situation, readers are strongly advised to independently verify the currency and accuracy of information in this publication, and to seek competent legal counsel.