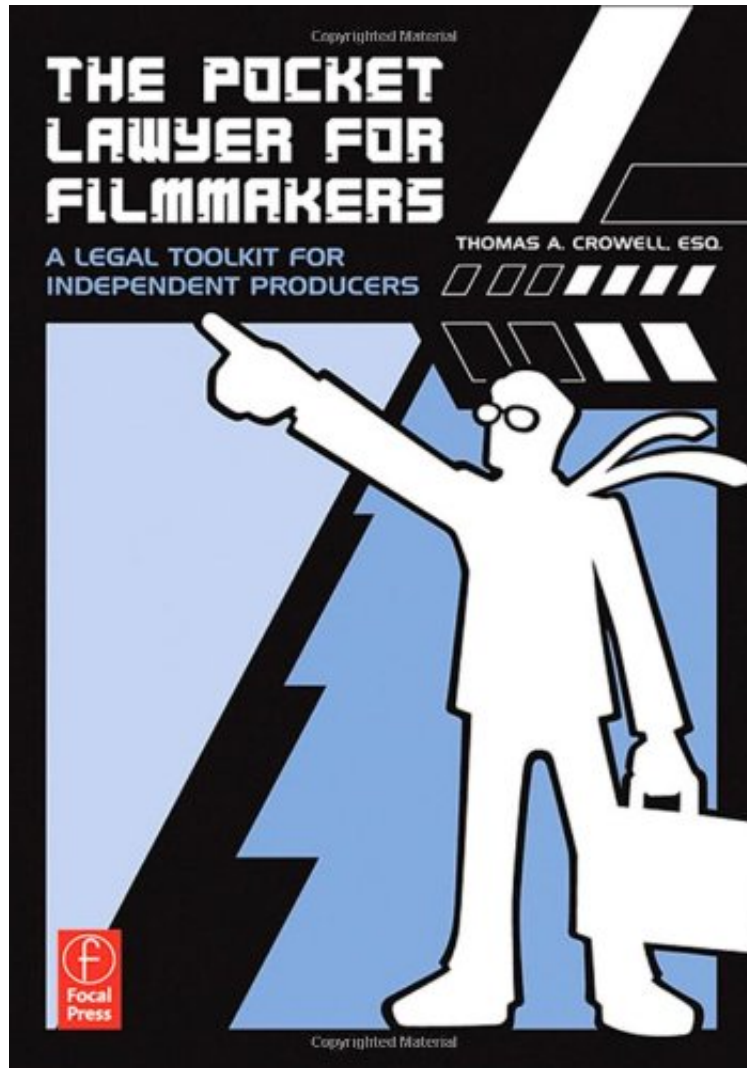


# The Pocket Lawyer for Filmmakers: A Legal Toolkit for Independent Producers

Thomas A. Crowell

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**Thomas A. Crowell : The Pocket Lawyer for Filmmakers: A Legal Toolkit for Independent Producers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pocket Lawyer for Filmmakers: A Legal Toolkit for Independent Producers:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read for Independent FilmmakersBy Brittany ZwierA great read! I've learned a lot about contracting and entertainment law without feeling bogged down by legalese. The book is written in a way that's easy to digest a lot of important (and specific) information and the examples often make me

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Very good, specific information. Good companion to a book of contracts. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Essential Guide  
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A very well structured book that takes you through the legalities of the producing process from idea conception to distribution. Easy to follow and thorough. It's great to be able to anticipate filmmaking legal concerns ahead of time. The more you're able to know, the better you can control your costs and protect your film. This book really helps that.

\* You have an idea you want to pitch to a production company; how do you safeguard your concept? \* There's a painting in the background of your independent film; is it necessary to clear the rights? \* The screenplay you and a friend wrote gets optioned; how do you split the proceeds fairly? \* How do you get a script to popular Hollywood actors or deal with their agents? Find quick answers to these and hundreds of other questions in *The Pocket Lawyer for Film and Video*, the next best thing to having an entertainment attorney at your beck and call. Written by a TV-producer-turned-entertainment-lawyer, this no-nonsense reference provides fast answers in plain English: no law degree required! *The Pocket Lawyer* is designed to help producers reduce legal costs by providing the vital information needed to make informed decisions on the legal aspects of film, video, and TV productions. Film and video production is a litigation lighting rod: actors get hurt, copyrights are infringed, and contracts are broken. Big-budget producers have lawyers on retainer, but many independent filmmakers are left legally exposed. Arm yourself with the practical advice in this book. You will not only avoid common pitfalls, but become empowered in your daily work. Too many otherwise competent producers turn over every aspect of the deal negotiations to their lawyers and agents. This book explains the principal deals common to every production, putting producers back in the co-pilot seat with their representatives. The format is carefully designed for quick reference, so you get the answers you need, fast. Features include: \* **Clause Companion**: explains the meaning and impact of typical contract clauses, taking the headache out of reading them. \* **F.A.Q.s**: instantly answers the most commonly asked legal questions. \* **Warnings**: alerts you to critical areas and common mistakes. \* **Pro-Tips**: advice on unions, escrow accounts, etc. for producers who want to distribute their video widely.

"...provides a readable map through the world of legalese and contract negotiations for any filmmaker interested in doing pretty much all his or her own producing legwork....It's an excellent, potentially career-saving resource." - *Back Stage*  
"Filmmakers need to do what they can to make sure that they cover all of their legal bases. The problem is that the task seems so huge and overwhelming, that most of us don't even know where to start. This book does an excellent job of breaking it down for you: what you can do, what you need to do, and what you will need help doing." - *Microfilmmaker Magazine*  
"While reading the book may feel like doing word problem after word problem, there's no denying you're smarter on Page 318 than you were on Page 1. It's an excellent, potentially career-saving resource. - Sam Thielman, *Back Stage Magazine*  
From the Back Cover  
Find quick answersto hundreds ofquestions in *The Pocket Lawyer for Film and Video*. This no-nonsense reference provides fast answers in plain English with no law degree required! It is designed to help you reduce legal costs by providing the vital information you need to make informed decisions on the legal aspects of your film, video, and TV productions. Actors get hurt, copyrights are infringed, and contracts are broken. Big-budget producers have lawyers on retainer, but as an independent filmmaker, you are left legally exposed. Arm yourself with the practical advice of a TV-producer-turned-entertainment-lawyer. The format is carefully designed for quick reference, so you get the answers you need, fast. Features include: \***Clause Companion**: explains the meaning and impact of typical contract clauses, taking the headache out of reading them \***F.A.Q.s**: instantly answers the most commonly asked legal questions \***Warnings**: alerts you to critical areas and common mistakes  
Avoid common pitfalls, save money, avoid lawsuits, and become empowered in your daily work. The next best thing to having an entertainment attorney at your beck and call is having one in your pocket! Thomas A. Crowell counsels his clients in New York and New Jersey on a wide range of entertainment law and intellectual property rights issues. Prior to becoming an attorney, Mr. Crowell produced television news and children's entertainment for over a decade.