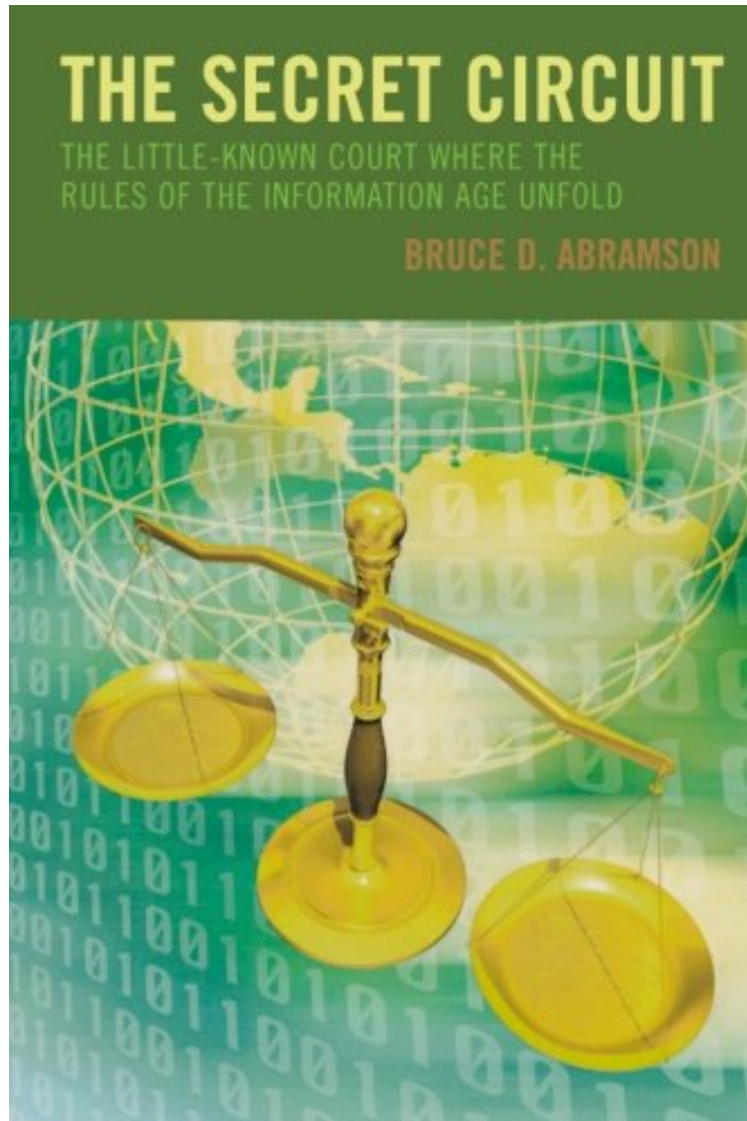


(Download free pdf) The Secret Circuit: The Little-Known Court Where the Rules of the Information Age Unfold

The Secret Circuit: The Little-Known Court Where the Rules of the Information Age Unfold

Bruce D. Abramson

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#3584481 in Books Rowman n Littlefield Publishers 2007-08-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.35 x 1.20 x 6.07l, 1.35 #File Name: 0742552810416 pages | File size: 30.Mb

Bruce D. Abramson : The Secret Circuit: The Little-Known Court Where the Rules of the Information Age Unfold before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Secret Circuit: The Little-Known Court Where the Rules of the Information Age Unfold:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three cheers for "idiosyncratic intellectual digressions"By Critical

ReaderThis book is an argument, but presents the facts dispassionately, enough to let you make up your own mind. This balance may be wasted: I cannot imagine anyone who does not have lots of interest in the topic--hence pre-formed opinions--to engage this book (though the title suggests a thriller...) This is too bad, in a way, as the author makes clear this court is one that ordinary citizens should care about, a lot. In short, read this book. If you don't know much when you start, you will when you are done. If you are knowledgeable a priori, read it for the pleasure of talking a long walk with a smart guy. I give this (five) thumbs up. PS If I have to earn my critical bona fides by finding some fault, I would point out the slight hyperbole that sometimes creeps into the text (eg p 28, America will not be a lawless society, adrift, if the supreme court (seemingly capriciously) overturns its prior decisions... (and I can earn my bona fides as a name dropping intellectual empty suit by citing Heraclitus" "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man.")

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good read that yields an interesting look into the world of patents. By Brian B. Eller I read this book before entering law school, and I had little previous knowledge regarding the federal circuit or anything in the field of Intellectual Property (IP). I had heard from others that the field was, well kind of dry, but this book really changed my mind. This book basically gives an intro into the current challenges facing the world of IP. IP is an exploding field, where new decisions with dramatic affects are being made everyday. The author shows why Microsoft, Cisco, and the entire software industry battled it out with Johnson and Johnson and the whole biotech industry over a patent on break pedals. He showed that how one defines words, whether from a dictionary or a technical journal rather than in a way regarding the specific fact situation, decides the fates of multiple patents. The author explains the outrage behind 'patent trolls' and how one patent can legally shut down every blackberry in America (after reading this book, I found myself on the side of the trolls). If you want an interesting read or if you just want to sound smart when talking to an IP attorney or IP law professor, this book is a good read. However, if you're looking for something for pure entertainment or intellectual value, some chapters are better than others (so I would skip around). Similarly, I haven't read many other books regarding the current state of IP in the U.S., so consider that when reading this review.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Review by the Berglund Center for Internet Studies. By Berglund Center for Internet Studies This has been, for me, a perplexing book to review. I find it well researched and generally well written, particularly given the complexity of its subject. For certain niche audiences, the work will prove very valuable. However, I must question a number of important decisions made by the author in organizing it, and wonder precisely for which audience the work is intended. Another flaw with the work is that it was, I feel, in part sold under false colors. The sub-title as well as the colorful cover of the work with its background of digital numerals behind a classical balance scale, all implies that the work will deal quite directly with the information age. The work as a whole seems to me to be cluttered with the author's continually idiosyncratic intellectual digressions. At the end I think it potentially valuable for a number of discrete audiences, but question the authorial decision to attempt to lump such a broad grouping of topics together, despite their focus in the work of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. For a full review see [interface](#), Volume 8, Issue 1.

Imagine a high impact, low profile, nonpartisan government institution located across the street from the White House. Imagine that it plays a central role in shaping our technology industries, in overseeing globalization, and in holding the federal government responsible for its commercial activities. Imagine that only Congress and the Supreme Court can correct its mistakes. Such an institution exists. The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit was born in the early 1980s as part of the drive to liberalize and reinvigorate the American economy. Over the past twenty-five years, it has earned its nickname as the 'patent court' by revolutionizing American patent law, but it also oversees international trade law and government business law. Taken together, its docket covers the rules guiding innovation, globalization, and much of government. Are these rules impelling the economy forward or holding it back? Are the policies we have the policies we want? How are we faring, as the economy transitions from the industrial age to the information age? What responsibility does the Federal Circuit bear in shaping America's current economic policies in these three critical areas? The Secret Circuit demystifies this Court's work and answers these questions.

The Federal Circuit the nation's patent court of appeals is at center stage of current controversies over U.S. patent law. Bruce Abramson's new book is an authoritative study of the court, remarkable for the lucidity with which it describes highly technical legal and scientific issues, and critical but fair-minded. (Richard A. Posner, U.S. Circuit Judge) Abramson has produced a provocative look at a Court whose power is far greater than most realize. In doing so, he has brought to life the Federal Circuit's rich history, its jurisprudential successes and failures, and the very real challenges facing what is perhaps the most important legal body in the modern U.S. economy. (R. Polk Wagner, University of Pennsylvania Law School)... "The Secret Circuit" serves as an excellent primer on the last time the law was revised while also providing some good analysis on the effectiveness of America's patent system in achieving economic growth. (Joshua Spivak, December 2007) In this remarkable book, Bruce Abramson provides a lively tutorial to our entire legal system, through the lens of a little-known, but highly important court in the United States that determines the validity of patents and regulates international trade. It is a tour de force which should be widely read.

(Robert Litan, Vice President for Research and Policy, Kauffman Foundation, and Senior Fellow in Economic Studies, Brookings Institution) About the Author Bruce D. Abramson received his Ph.D. from Columbia and his J.D. from Georgetown. He is the President of Informationism, Inc., a San Francisco-based consultancy that helps an international clientele understand the law, the policies, the economics, and the strategic uses of intellectual property. He has served as a member of the Computer Science faculty at the University of Southern California and as a law clerk at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He is the author of *Digital Phoenix: Why the Information Economy Collapsed and How It Will Rise Again* (M.I.T. Press, 2005). His blog, *The Informationist*, (www.theinformationist.com), contains his musings on I.P., tech policy, and numerous other issues.