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The power of Legal Design: a legal education tool for creative professionals.

Michelangela Verardi

Accademia del Lusso, Milano, Italy

Abstract

The poster presents applied research on teaching law to students who aspire to become creative professionals (fashion designers, brand managers, fashion lawyers), exploring the use of legal design in legal education. From a theoretical point of view, it is part of the broader debate on teaching methods to achieve the educational goals of the Italian AFAM (Fine Arts Academy). This study aims to enhance inclusion in the learning experience and democratise legal knowledge, breaking down barriers to legal information.

Legal Design, a recent and popular multidisciplinary practice, empowers teachers and students, fostering a more intuitive grasp of legal content. Research confirms the effectiveness of this approach, demonstrating improved comprehension of legal texts and processes through graphic and pictorial forms. A final workshop, culminating in the visual representation of two model contracts commonly used in fashion and creative systems, solidified these findings.

Full paper

This research explores the potential of Legal Design (Hagan, 2020) to transform legal education for aspiring creative professionals. Legal design can enhance learning and comprehension of legal concepts by simplifying content and reducing jargon (Le Gall, 2021).

The study unfolds in three distinct and structured phases, each with a specific focus on the legal needs of fashion professionals. The first phase identifies key legal concepts crucial for success in the fashion industry, traditionally challenging for students due to complex legalese and opaque processes. The second phase introduces these concepts through traditional lectures and textbook readings. While these methods provide a foundation, the dense language and abstract nature of legal texts often create barriers to comprehension, hindering students' ability to protect their rights and navigate legal complexities in the creative field. The third phase showcases the practical application of legal design as a complementary tool. Through interdisciplinary collaboration with lawyers and creatives, students develop visual representations of standard fashion industry legal documents like confidentiality and trademark license agreements. These visual aids (e.g., Fig. 1, Fig. 2) effectively break down barriers to legal information, making it more accessible to a wider audience. This aligns with the concept of democratising legal knowledge.

ACCORDO DI RISERVATEZZA
per produzione prototipo borsa

MANIFESTAZIONE DI VOLONTÀ

1

3 LE PARTI

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ITALY

ARTIGIANI SRL

SUBFORNITURE SRL

ACCORDO 2

TOP SECRET

4 OGGETTO DELL'ACCORDO

NEW BAG

11 LEGGE APPLICA

12

Fig. 1 Non-disclosure agreement visual representation

Fig. 2 Trademark licensing agreement visual representation

This research finds that legal design empowers creative students. Visual tools break down barriers to legal information, fostering comprehension and promoting social justice. Equipped with legal knowledge, students can advocate for fair contracts, ethical practices, and intellectual property protection within the creative industry.

The findings highlight legal design's potential to address critical challenges in legal education. With its emphasis on visual representation, user-centered design, and interdisciplinary collaboration (Niinikoski & Toivonen, 2021), legal design offers a promising approach to making law more accessible to students with diverse backgrounds and learning styles.

By employing legal design techniques (Allbon & Perry-Kessaris, 2022), educators break down barriers to legal information. Legal design allows teachers to adopt more engaging formats, reducing reliance on technical jargon, promoting a more inclusive learning environment, and reflecting contemporary pedagogical principles advocating diverse teaching methods for all learners. This research shows its potential to revamp legal education methods, contributing to the ongoing dialogue. Equipping students with confidence in applying legal knowledge to real-world scenarios, empowering the next generation of creative professionals to navigate the legal landscape, protect themselves, and advocate for a more just and equitable creative industry.

References

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