

**Identifying Information**

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**Paper Information**

Title:	The Laws of Design
Abstract:	Various intellectual property doctrines regulate how products are designed. Copyrights and patents exist to encourage designers to create new and valuable designs, while trade dress laws enable consumers to understand the source of products with known designs. But many other legal fields also regulate product design. Tort law affects the safety of product designs. Environmental laws affect the efficiency of designs. And disability laws affect the accessibility of designs. Each of these other fields, among many others, constrain the choices that designers make. In so doing, they affect the pace and direction of innovation in design. This project begins to contemplate the interplay between IP laws and other substantive legal fields that regulate design to provide a fuller picture of the challenges that designers face.