



Unfair to Genius: The Strange and Litigious Career of Ira B. Arnstein (Hardback)

By Gary A Rosen

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2012. Hardback.
 Book Condition: New. 236 x 160 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The long and tortured career of Ira B. Arnstein, the unrivaled king of copyright infringement plaintiffs, opens a curious window into the evolution of copyright law in the United States. As Gary A. Rosen shows in this frequently funny and always entertaining history, the litigious Arnstein was a trenchant observer and most improbable participant in the transformation of not just copyright, but of American popular music itself. A musical prodigy in the late nineteenth century, Arnstein performed as a boy soprano at the famous 1893 White City exhibition in Chicago. He grew up to be a composer of moderate accomplishment, but by the mid-1920s his fortunes had reversed in the face of changing tastes and times. Embittered and confused, he became convinced that he was the victim of a conspiracy to steal his music and set out on a three-decade-long campaign to prove it, suing most of the major players in the popular music industry of his day. Although Arnstein never won a case, Rosen shows that the decisions rendered ultimately defined some of the basic parameters of copyright...

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