FOREWORD

Writing this doctoral thesis was a three-step process. It led me to the Institut für Informationsrecht of the University of Karlsruhe (TH), the Instituut voor Informatierecht (IViR) of the University of Amsterdam and the Max-Planck-Institut für Geistiges Eigentum, Wettbewerbs- und Steuerrecht in Munich.

This final book would not have been possible without all the guidance and support offered to me by my two supervisors Bernt Hugenholtz and Thomas Dreier. They always had a listening ear for my questions. In Karlsruhe, it was Thomas Dreier who helped me to identify the three-step test as an appropriate research topic. In Amsterdam, it was Bernt Hugenholtz who supported me in developing a concept on which not only the research at that time but also this final book could be based. I would like to thank both of them for their constant help and support.

After graduation at the University of Heidelberg in 2000, I had the opportunity to enhance my knowledge of current trends and problems in the field of copyright law at the Institut für Informationsrecht in Karlsruhe. On the basis of the research project in which I was involved, I finally took the decision to write a doctoral thesis about the three-step test in international copyright law. For the inspiring working atmosphere and numerous useful discussions, I would like to thank all my colleagues and particularly Georg Nolte.

It became obvious that the Institute in Karlsruhe had been an excellent starting point when I applied for a full time research position at the Instituut voor Informatierecht in Amsterdam. In March 2001, I could move to the Netherlands immediately. Profiting from the help and support offered by my new colleagues, I managed to develop the concept on which the book rests to this day. In particular, I would like to thank Lucie Guibault, Natali Helberger, Kamiel Koelman, Nirmala Sitompoel and Rosanne van der Waal for their support of my work. I would also like to thank the ITeR program (Informatietechnologie en Recht) for financing my work.

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If not otherwise indicated, I am responsible for the translation of Dutch, French or German texts. The Dutch summary which forms part of the ‘promotieeditie’ of this book has been carefully reviewed by Gerard Mom. The research for this book was completed on 1 October 2003.

Karlsruhe, 1 November 2003

Martin Senftleben