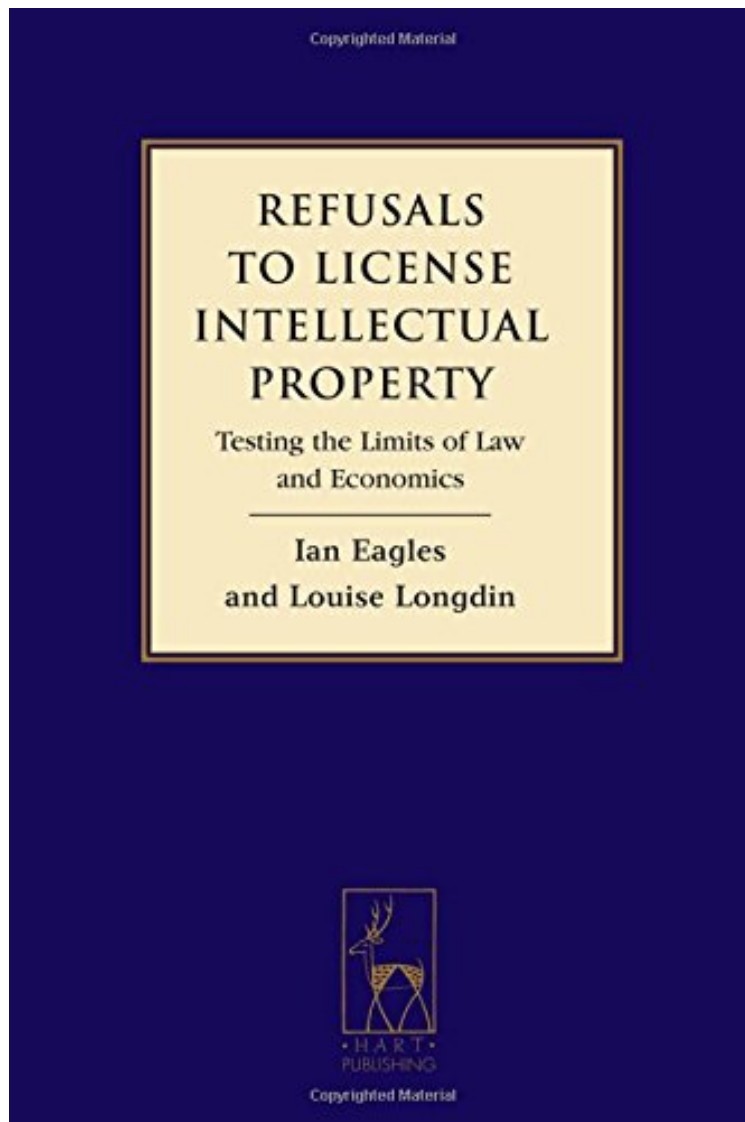


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# Refusals to License Intellectual Property: Testing the Limits of Law and Economics

*Ian Eagles, Louise Longdin*

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Economic analysis rarely appears on the judicial horizon in intellectual property litigation. In competition cases, by contrast, economists are familiar figures in the courtroom and the language of economics is scattered throughout the judgments of even the highest courts. One might expect, therefore, that refusals to license intellectual property would generate the same fruitful symbiosis between law and economics when those refusals surface in competition proceedings. This, however, has not been how the law on this subject has developed in most jurisdictions. Courts and enforcement agencies faced with a unilateral refusal to license have instead tended to retreat into sketchily articulated black letter rules and presumptions, which then have to be fenced off from the rest of competition law by economically irrelevant qualifications and distinctions based on private law categorizations of, and rationales for, individual intellectual property rights. This bypassing of case-by-case analysis in favor of more traditional modes of legal reasoning is not entirely the fault of lawyers. Economists have contributed to this state of affairs by urging judges and regulators to convert empirically undernourished theories about the proper role of intellectual property in a market economy into rules of law and evidentiary presumptions intended to be binding in future cases. How this came about and what it means for the future of effective competition enforcement globally are the twin concerns of this book.

...a very insightful overview of the challenging relationship between competition law and intellectual property law in all major legal systems across the globe. It provides excellent in depth analysis on the subject whose nature at this state of development poses more questions than gives answers, so it's great food for thought and a must-read for any academic doing research in this area. (Andrej Fatur World Competition Law and Economics December 2013)...this book provides an interesting analysis of the principles underlying the approach of competition law to refusals to license IPRs and why this approach is often flawed from an economics perspective. (Mark Snelgrove Journal of Intellectual Property Law and Practice Volume 7(6))About the AuthorIan Eagles and Louise Longdin hold chairs in law at Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand and are Visiting Professors at the University of New South Wales. Professor Longdin is also Director of the Competition Law and Policy Institute of New Zealand.