Cornell Law School

Legal Information Institute
OPEN ACCESS TO LAW SINCE 1992

[LII]

Wex

- all pages
- articles
- español
- Inbox Project
- search
- FAQ

Intellectual Property Clause

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power "To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." Because this clause is the source of Congress' power to enact legislation governing copyrights and patents, it is often referred to as the "patent and copyright clause."

wex: CIVICS

the Constitution
PROPERTY
intellectual property
intellectual property
wex definitions

About LII

Contact us

Advertise here

Help

Terms of use

Privacy