



Independent Writers of Chicago

28 E. Jackson Bldg., Suite 1020 #W686, Chicago, IL 60604

Phone/Fax: 800-804-IWOC (800-804-4962)

www.iwoc.org

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CONTACT: laurastigler@earthlink.net

FREELANCE WRITING AND THE LAW: INDEPENDENT WRITERS OF CHICAGO (IWOC) LEARN ANSWERS TO A GAMUT OF LEGAL QUESTIONS

Regarding business law, freelancers can be a floundering bunch. Many of us don't have a clue as to how to deal with the myriad of legal issues that can pop up, from a writer's rights and responsibilities, to settling an invoice dispute...to any number of conundrums in between. If you're among the confused (and who among us isn't?), grab your legal pad and bring it to the next IWOC meeting on Tuesday, January 13th, when Creative Property legal eagle David M. Adler will be explaining in layman's terms, a whole range of law-related questions that can affect our businesses. And bottom lines.

The principle attorney of the eponymous Adler Law Group, (www.ecommerceattorney.com), Adler's background goes deep into corporate law, including contract drafting and interpretation, negotiation and enforcement of intellectual property and media law. So he's fully equipped to cover whatever legal questions that can keep you up nights. To wit:

- ✦ What's the difference between a letter of agreement and a contract? Is it binding if emailed? Can you rely upon an oral agreement?
- ✦ Confidentiality agreements: how can they affect your work? Must you sign them?
- ✦ If it's on the Internet, is it okay to use?
- ✦ What is fair use? A paragraph? A song title? A verse? Caution: there are predatory companies that troll online content for possible infringement.
- ✦ How can we insure payment from a client – even if our work isn't used? Can we guarantee a piece is never used illegally?
- ✦ Writing a book? It's essential to understand copyright and know what an ISBN means for you and for the publisher – even if you're self-published.

Answers to these and a whole lot more will be discussed. Come to the meeting...and you just might come out thinking like a lawyer!

The IWOC meeting will take place Tuesday, **January 13th** in **Room 4A (4th fl.)** at the Gratz Center, 126 E. Chestnut St. / 115 E. Delaware, Chicago, just west of Michigan Ave., adjacent to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Discounted parking (after 5 pm, with validation) is located at the 900 N. Michigan Ave. garage. Networking at 5 p.m. Main program, 6 p.m. IWOC members admitted free and do not need to register. Nonmembers, \$15. (\$10 if pre-registered at <http://www.iwoc.org/calendar>. Click on "January 13th IWOC Meeting.") Following the meeting, attendees are invited to a nearby restaurant for a buy-your-own dinner to further discuss writing-related topics or to continue networking. For more information, call 800-804-IWOC (800-804-4962) or visit www.iwoc.org.

IWOC is a nonprofit professional association of freelance writers living in the Chicago metropolitan area whose clients range from local to global. Together, IWOC members represent a broad spectrum of writing talents, consultation services, and specialties serving large corporations, small businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.