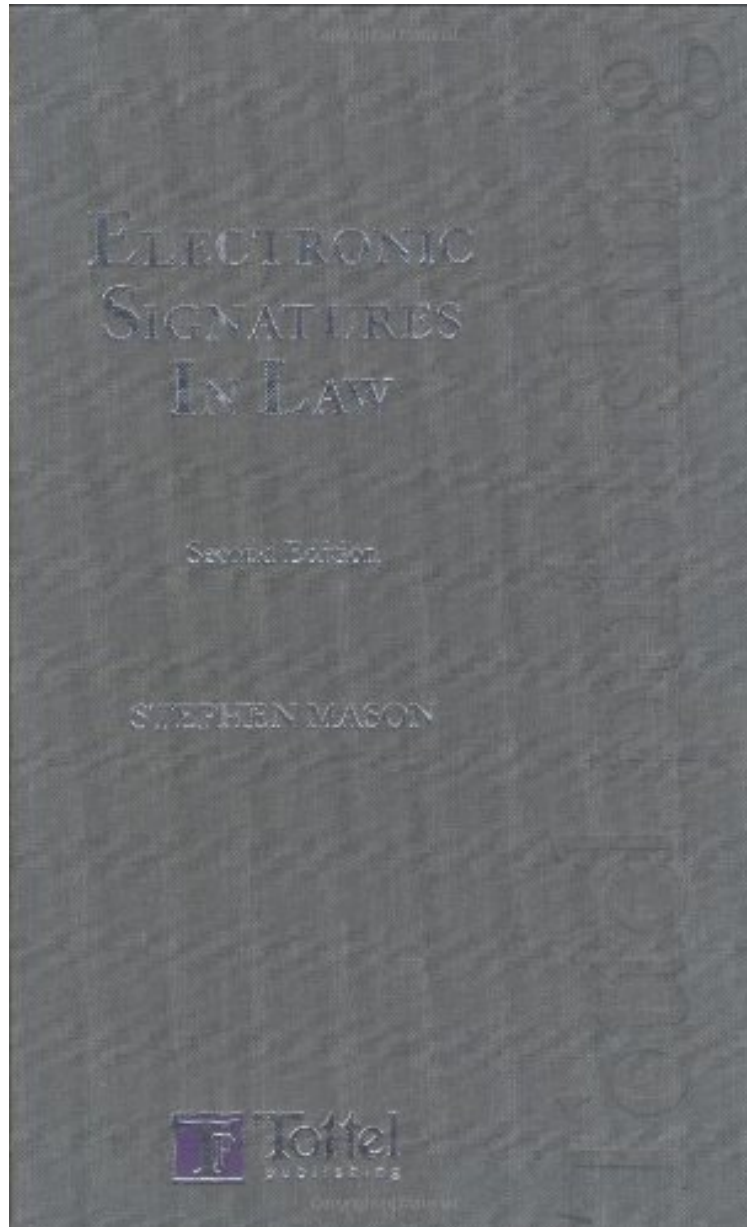


(Download) Electronic Signatures in Law: Second Edition

## Electronic Signatures in Law: Second Edition

*Stephen Mason*

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**Stephen Mason : Electronic Signatures in Law: Second Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Electronic Signatures in Law: Second Edition:

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review helpful. New edition now out....By Phillip Taylor MBEA WELL-ESTABLISHED AND CELEBRATED WORK OF REFERENCE ON ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES NOW IN A NEW FOURTH EDITIONAn appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green ChambersA quick perusal of this book should convince you that signatures are not as simple as many may think. They can manifest themselves in any number of forms, which means that the term signature can be either loosely or precisely defined to the point where it almost defies definition. Thus, says the author Stephen Mason, judges have been required to exercise their powers to test the definition of a signature and what is acceptable in the legal context. Signatures past and present, medieval and modern are therefore discussed in detail in the first chapter of this new fourth edition of what has become a long-established practitioner text on this often vexed subject, thus putting the matter of electronic signatures into perspective. Published by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS), this edition deals with the different forms of electronic signatures, giving each a separate chapter now that the case law has significantly increased. An acknowledged authority on electronic signatures, Mason, who has published widely on the subject, reminds us of the differences between the digital and physical worlds -- and that some forms of electronic signatures may not be considered, strictly speaking, as signatures. Nevertheless, he adds that it is a convenient shorthand to refer to some forms of agreeing to enter a contract as an electronic signature at least we can all understand the meaning behind their words even if the form is not quite what we expect. Is a PIN, for example, an electronic signature? The author argues that it is a form of one, as it provides verification and authorisation of a transaction. From here the book becomes progressively more detailed and more technical, covering, for example, electronic sound, typing a name into an electronic document and in an email address. Then there are the issues relating to PINs and passwords and there are also chapters on liability, evidence, digital signatures and data protection and of course, much more, including a chapter on international initiatives. Distinguished by its clarity, the book reveals the complexities and the possible and probable pitfalls inherent in the usage of electronic signatures, explaining and analyzing relevant case law from an amazingly broad range of jurisdictions. As the internet knows no boundaries, neither does the matter of electronic signatures. With a view to the needs of practitioners, the book is logically structured with numbered paragraphs, a detailed index -- and a wealth of references via the extensive footnoting. The tables of cases and of legislation comprise about 60 of the books pages, indicating if anything, the continually changing realities in this area of law which have come about in response to rapid changes in electronic technologies. Commercial and international lawyers will doubtless be keen to add this latest edition of this long-established work of reference to their professional libraries. Also, as you might expect, the book is available online. The publication date is cited as at September 2016.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Cheque time is up...By Phillip Taylor MBE CHEQUE TIME IS UP: THE RISE OF THE ELECTRONIC SIGNATUREAn appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers Stephen Mason, in the second edition of his work *Electronic Signatures in Law*, sums up the balance between his work and the long established and companion of renowned, *Byles on Bills of Exchange and Cheques* (28th edition), when he writes that a colleague once referred to electronic signatures as the burning branch of obscurity. Mason's friend was indicating, indirectly, that although electronic signatures in their many forms are used daily by millions of people millions of times, the understanding surrounding the topic (like bills of exchange) was negligible! This work by Mason is a particular relevance to those who study the formation of contracts in an electronic age where the old rules tend to be changing by reason of modern necessity. Mason succeeds here with his aim to bring the topic of electronic signatures into focus with students, lawyers and non lawyers in an age where the common law notion that it never had much truck with technological objections could not be more unfortunate as the global market place dominates. Mason's book, itself, is an excellent exposition of practices across the world with 16 detailed chapters, five appendices and a glossary. He provides an in-depth analysis of: what constitutes an electronic signature the form an electronic signature can take issues relating to evidence, formation of contract and negligence; and guest authors writing chapters to cover Canada, Germany and the USA. THE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE As the global economy takes full control this century, Mason on *Electronic Signatures* reviews these electronic signature acts throughout the world and investigates how they have been amended by examining a number of important cases which have been reported in the following jurisdictions which may be of interest to your firm. They are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, England Wales, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America. This second edition is very timely giving a practical and whilst comprehensive guide to the understanding of what an electronic signature is. The book starts with a clear overview of the concept and history of all forms of signature and provides a fantastic insight into the way the world now views this method of asset exchange since Victorian times and is very much a book for the twenty-first century.

This book considers the function of electronic signatures and demonstrates the flexibility of the English common law in recognizing its various changes in form in response to technology. The second edition has been fully revised and updated in line with new UK case law and changes in UK legislation and codes. In keeping with the international nature of the internet, this book covers almost every jurisdiction which has a law on electronic signatures, including

two brand-new comparative chapters on the US and Canada.

"Mason's book is strongly recommended for any legal practitioner, policy maker, or judicial officer who needs to assess the deployment and use of electronic signatures. Nonattorney professionals and technologists working in the areas of identity management and access control will also benefit greatly from this book. In the United States, active participants in the NSTIC process in particular would be well advised to understand identity law as it exists in signature law for both physical and electronic signatures." Jurimetrics "One can understand why there has been a market for three editions of this comprehensive work." John D. Gregory, Slaw (slaw.ca) About the Author Stephen Mason is a barrister with an interest in electronic signatures, authentication, security, electronic evidence, e-mail and internet use, the interception and monitoring of communications, data protection and privacy. He is also a member of the IT Panel of the General Council of the Bar of England and Wales, an independent director of tScheme Limited and an Associate Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.