Legal Implications of Building Information Modeling (BIM)

Elaboration of legal analysis and legal conclusions pertaining to Building Information Modeling (BIM) and accessory phenomenons, as well as formulation of legal propositions or recommendations insofar as appropriate as possible

The use of all sorts of instruments and methods that are based on information technology, especially of Building Information Modeling (BIM), is rapidly increasing in the construction sector.

More and more tasks and operations alongside the life-cycle of buildings and infrastructures can be done with assistance from information technology, or even autonomously by such technology. This ongoing evolution raises legal questions in several fields of law.

• How can the stakeholders of a construction project contractually organise and secure the use of BIM and the relevant interests pertaining to this use in their project?

• How to deal with BIM products and instruments in civil (contractual and extracontractual) court proceedings?

• What statutory rules are needed to legally allow a «BIM building permit procedure» if such a procedure were to be decided by politics?

• To what extent can the BIM method be used by public contracting authorities under public procurement law without infringing the prohibition of discrimination?

The project aims at elaborating legal analysis and legal conclusions, potentially also legal propositions and recommendations, pertaining to Building Information Modelling and accessory phenomenons.
Research focus
- Contract law / civil proceedings law: Analysis of potential or actual contractual problems pertaining to BIM. Formulation of possible solutions or methods. Analysis of the terms and consequences of the use of BIM as proof in civil proceedings.
- Construction law: Analysis of the potential need of legislative changes for a «BIM building permit procedure».
- Public procurement law: Analysis of the use of BIM in public tender procedures.

Research domain
Interactions and design processes

Research group
Institute for Swiss and International Construction Law (UNIFR)

Direction
Prof. Martin Beyeler

Partners
Dialogue and selective activities with several other research institutions

Start - end date
2016 - ongoing

Goals
- Legal analysis of and insight in problems and solutions pertaining to BIM.
- Contribution to the development of contractual and statutory rules pertaining to BIM.

Results or deliverables
- Publications
- Conferences / Speeches / Workshops
- Enrichment of University teaching

Publications
Contributions to law books and law journals