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### **How to Use Copyright and Trademark Law To Protect Your Food and Recipes**

Is it possible for restaurateurs to protect their recipes and dishes from being copied and sold by their competitors?

The answer is yes, you can absolutely protect the value of your recipes. Copyright protection is available for your written description of the way the ingredients are assembled and prepared in order to create the food. The ingredient list itself is not protected, but the cooking technique, the manner and order in which the ingredients are assembled, and possibly even the plating presentation of the food is in fact protected.

Another aspect of your food which can be protected is the name you give to your dish or food. You may be able to trademark the name of your dish, which could be important if you market or sell the food using its name. The trademark process is a little bit more complicated than the copyright process, but a good restaurant lawyer should be able to handle both tasks efficiently.

If you would like more information about how you can copyright your recipe or trademark the name of your dish or food item, please call or email me.

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