



1-1-1988

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Recommended Citation

Santa Clara Law Review, Other, *Books Received*, 28 SANTA CLARA L. REV. 237 (1988).

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.law.scu.edu/lawreview/vol28/iss1/10>

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BOOKS RECEIVED

The Literate Lawyer: Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy. By Robert B. Smith. Boston, Mass.: Butterworth Legal Publishers. 1986. Pp. viii + 260. Softbound. \$23.63.

With the increasing number of complaints lodged against attorneys' incompetence, the publication of *The Literate Lawyer* is timely. While this book is just one of many legal research and writing texts, it is particularly distinct.

The Literate Lawyer is a practical reference guide for all law students and practicing attorneys, and should be shelved next to the style manual in every library. The author's foremost message is that, in any form of communication, attorneys must be clear, organized, confident, and must always consider the reader. Of course, all law students are taught these skills during school, but unfortunately, such skills are not necessarily perfected during practice.

The author takes the reader from basic, technical rules of research, citation, and writing-reviewing common grammatical mistakes, word usage problems, and spelling errors-to sections on polishing and editing written work. The book is well-organized, is easy to read, and contains many helpful hints and entertaining examples. Smith includes a chapter with advice on correspondence to clients and fellow attorneys, and a brief note on dictation. This is a very comprehensive work for any practicing attorney interested in improving his or her advocacy skills. The majority of the work is devoted to legal writing skills and there is only a single chapter on oral advocacy.

Of particular interest is the chapter devoted to correctly explaining a list of commonly confused words and indicating their proper usage. The appendices are especially helpful, and include a list of frequently misspelled words and a list of common words with their correct preposition (e.g. "derogate from," "dissimilar to"). Furthermore, there are many other helpful hints which should serve as guides to professional writing.

The author accomplishes the difficult task of making legal research and writing and oral advocacy stimulating, challenging and relatively simple by offering elementary guidelines in each chapter. *The Literate Lawyer* should be recommended, if not required, reading for all new attorneys. The work is often addressed to law stu-

dents but is an excellent guide and review text for any attorney interested in excellent advocacy skills and the success which eventually follow.

Understanding the Securities Laws. By Larry D. Sonderquist. New York, N.Y.: Practising Law Institute. 1987. Pp. xiv + 359. Hardbound. \$75.00.

One area of the business world which does not lack in information and guidance is the securities business. Insider trading schemes have made news headlines, the stock market crash heightened the public's awareness of securities activities, and even Hollywood has capitalized on the public's concerns by creating a film named after the famous securities market — Wall Street. Aside from these exposures to the securities business, there is a tremendous number of volumes written on the economic, financial and legal aspects of securities. *Understanding the Securities Laws* is one such text, attempting to explain the securities laws and regulations.

This book is a very brief summary of securities law. Sonderquist's intention is to give an introduction or starting point to the area for those who will have to approach the securities law or for those who are simply curious. For those already acquainted with this area, the book may serve as a cursory review, but may not be worth the time. For those with no or very little exposure to this area of the law, the text provides a very basic, short, easy-to-read initiation into securities, with particular emphasis on the Securities Act of 1933¹ and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.²

The first few chapters cover the history of securities law, describe the sources of the law, the resources used when practicing securities law, and cover the business context and regulatory framework of securities act registration. The majority of the work describes the registration process and other topics related to the securities acts, including liability for violations of the acts, registration exemptions, reporting, and the purchase and sale of securities. As described, the book provides broad coverage of specialized areas of concern governed by the securities acts. As with any broad review of a complex subject, only shallow treatment of each subject is possible and this book is no exception.

While the work does not provide any significant guidance to the practicing attorney, the material is contributory. *Understanding the Securities Law*, however, should not be used for more than a mere

1. 15 U.S.C. §§ 77a-77mm (1982).

2. *Id.* §§ 78a-78kk (1982).

introduction to an extremely complex area of the law.

Engineering Aspects of Water Law. By Leonard Rice & Michael D. White. New York, N.Y.: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1987. Pp. x + 191. Hardbound. \$39.95.

Leonard Rice, the President of Leonard Rice Consulting Water Engineers, Inc., and Michael D. White, a partner in the law firm of White & Janowski, have brought together their scientific and legal talents to create an informative and comprehensive introduction to water law. Water law, as any other environmental or policy issue, must necessarily include scientific, social, economic, as well as legal studies to be complete. This book is an excellent instructive source for attorneys on the technical aspects of water resources. A text such as this is crucial to an attorney's complete general understanding of the area in which he or she practices.

With the use of graphs, maps, tables and examples, the reader is introduced in the first chapter to the hydrologic cycle (sources of water), the historical development of water right doctrines, and in chapters two and three the reader is exposed to the legal and institutional considerations of water rights. Chapter four singles out groundwater and wells as a topic for discussion because the authors feel that a lack of understanding in this area has led to legal doctrines which are ignorant of, and thus not based on the facts. The final chapter addresses aspects of adjudicating water rights, focusing on the attorney-expert team, sources of information, and methods of determining injury and historic consumptive use. A glossary of terms and a bibliography complete the work.

This book is important for anyone interested in or currently practicing water law. It is short and easy to read and understand. Keep in mind, however, that the book is only a general introduction to a complex area of science and law, and should be read accordingly.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS RECEIVED

Land Use Litigation. By John W. Shonkwiler & Terry D. Morgan. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co. 1986. 2 v. Hardbound. \$130.00.

Closed Borders. By Alan Dowty. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press. 1987. Pp. xvii + 270. Hardbound. \$20.00

Privacy in a Public Society: Human Rights in Conflict. By Richard F. Hixson. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, Inc. 1987. Pp. xvi + 255.

