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Automobile Design Liability by Richard M. Goodman

Moe Levine

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Similarly, their summary of the Williams bill, which seems to have been hastily composed and inserted after the book had gone to press, is most inaccurate. But, their criticism of the policy embodied in the bill is sound. The disclosure requirement in the bill is predicated on an analogy to exchange tender offers and proxy fights which is thoroughly and demonstrably false. Where the stockholder need not leave any of his money in the hands of the would-be new management, but may retire with more cash than he could get on the open market, the considerations which justify disclosure are not applicable, although they are when he is not given the chance to sell out entirely. There is small doubt that the prime purpose of the act was less to protect public investors than to protect entrenched and frequently incompetent managements. The cash tender offeror, unlike other takeover bidders, is putting his money where his mouth is.

Overall, the book, despite its deficiencies (which include the lack of an index), ought to be useful to those who may be involved in tender offers, and to students of business and business history. I have of late years fallen into the habit of reviewing bad, pretentious books. It is refreshing to review one which is neither.

Joseph W. Bishop, Jr.


Many books have been written in the personal injury field dealing with the legal aspects of such cases or with the trial tactics and techniques which should be used for adequate presentation to a jury. Rarely, however, does one find a book that is designed to furnish the practitioner with the basic tool of the successful trial lawyer—a clear understanding of the technical facts of the case and where to acquire it.

Dean A. Robb, Esq. of the Michigan Bar wrote such a book in 1965 (Lawyer's Desk Reference, Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Co.) and now his partner, Richard M. Goodman has followed in his footsteps.

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15 Pp. 34-35.
16 They forgot to delete statements in an earlier chapter (pp. 4-5) that cash tender offers are not subject to regulation.
18 A.B., Dartmouth College (1936); LL.B. Harvard Law School (1940). Mr. Bishop has served as the Richard Ely Professor of Law at Yale Law School since 1968.
His book *Automobile Design Liability* contains everything that a lawyer needs to know about the automobile. To borrow a phrase from Mr. Robb's foreword, the book gives to every lawyer precise information about the automobile “from ashtrays to zerk fittings”. Included within the pages of this book is complete and detailed information relating to Federal, State, and private safety standards and regulations, recall campaigns, compilations of automotive products liability cases, bibliographies and compilations of indices, libraries, experts and consultants in the field. If there is anything that cannot be found in this book, the author makes certain to tell you where to find it.

The defective product is a dangerous threat to the health and safety of an unsuspecting public and the automobile ranks highest among those products causing tragic death, destruction and devastating injuries. It is not sufficient for the lawyer engaged in the personal injury field to say that he will develop expertise in this expanding field of law “when the time comes”. The time is here and now. It is not enough to prepare the *case* after a retainer is accepted but the attorney must prepare *himself* well in advance so that he will be in a position to recognize and intelligently discuss, evaluate and investigate a potential automobile products liability case. Mr. Goodman's book enables every lawyer to become an instant expert and to readily acquire the expertise necessary for this purpose.

Mr. Goodman is to be commended for his remarkable work. It represents an approach to the preparation and trial of a personal injury action, too often overlooked by the personal injury bar, that there is no substitute for a clear and thorough knowledge and understanding of the technical intricacies of the case.

*Moe Levine*

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In the last years Catholic moral theology has taken a distinctively speculative anti-authoritarian and liberal tone, which seeks to discuss