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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS


One has a right to expect that a set of cases on property selected by experts in the field of such long standing as Professors Aigler, Bigelow and Powell will meet the needs of the most exacting teacher of the law of property. They have produced just such a selection of cases. Their two volumes of cases have sufficient material for a basic one year course in the subject. The collection covers materials usually included in casebooks in personal property, rights in land any conveyancing. Nothing more than what is required in a basic course is provided for. The law of landlord and tenant and of future interests is left for other courses. About half the space usually given to personal property is allotted to the subject in these volumes. The cases are carefully selected and include nearly all the important ones that are customarily used in teaching that subject. Here, as in the sections dealing with real property, the traditional arrangement and subdivisions are found.

Chapters and sections have introductions containing explanatory and text material, designed, as the authors say, to aid the student in orienting himself. In one or two instances, however, the introduction is extended to the length of a law review article as, for instance, in the section on adverse possession in volume two. In the introduction to real property law, a great deal of space is given up to excerpts from text books. In fact nearly the whole of Bigelow’s Introduction to Real Property is included. This is in line with modern practice in compiling casebooks. Most all law school libraries, however, have available this material which can be cited by the instructor if he thinks it necessary that it be read by his students. For that reason the practice, after all, may be open to criticism.

The footnotes contain citations of cases, law review articles and additional materials for class discussion. The editors have placed emphasis on statutory materials.

While the two volumes are apparently designed for a one year course, there is enough material to supply a class with work for three semesters if an instructor so desires.

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This new casebook varies the emphasis to some extent from that found in other casebooks. The detailed table of contents is useful to serve as a guide to youths entirely innocent of any knowledge of the law of torts and inexperienced with reasoning by analogy. The editors rightly emphasize especially the notes, which take the form of short summaries of decided cases. These afford a basis of comparison with the principal cases and illustrate variations of the problems. The fact that they give the facts and the holding and that they are in large type assures that they will be read, by creating an interest. This is a welcome contrast to learned notes which are never read. This should prove to be a popular casebook. Each editor has had wide experience in the field and each was an adviser to the Reporter for the Restatement of Torts.