

Book Review: The Sports Lawyers Guide to Legal Periodicals

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BOOK REVIEW

THE SPORTS LAWYER'S GUIDE TO LEGAL PERIODICALS

Glenn M. Wong and T. Jesse Wilde

[Buffalo, New York: William S. Hein & Co., Inc. 1994]

xx + 678 pp., \$75.00

ISBN 0-89941-850-3

The Sport Lawyer's Guide to Legal Periodicals, by Glenn M. Wong, one of the leaders in the field of sport law, and T. Jesse Wilde, a sport law professor at Rice University, is a breakthrough for the sport law community doing sport law research.

The Sport Lawyer's Guide to Legal Periodicals is a specialized annotated bibliography which references and indexes only sport law articles. No longer will researchers and practitioners have to rummage through seemingly endless volumes of the "Index to Legal Periodicals," searching references and cross references to relevant legal articles, pulling and reading each and every article to determine its research value. This process was both tedious and frustrating, particularly if a relevant article was missed because it was indexed under some topic that had not been examined. Now when researchers and practitioners consult *The Sport Lawyer's Guide to Legal Periodicals*, they can find every relevant legal article on the issue—quickly, conveniently, and confidently.

The Sport Lawyer's Guide to Legal Periodicals, contains over 900 articles divided into three sections: (1) a subject index; (2) a periodical index; and, (3) an author index. Therefore, a researcher need only know; a general legal area, the title of a specific article, or the author's name, in order to find the information they are looking for.

The first section is the subject index which is divided into seventeen (17) general topic areas ranging from administrative law to trademark law. Where appropriate, each general topic area is further divided into sub-topics and sub-sub-topics.

The following example demonstrates the value of the subject index to researchers and practitioners. Suppose an individual began researching a question on the constitutionality of drug testing. The first step in using this guide would be to look under the general topic of "constitutional law". Under this topic there are fourteen (14) sub-topics ranging from the "Commerce Clause" to the "USOC". One of the sub-topics is "drug testing". Under the "drug testing" sub-topic a researcher would find

twelve (12) sub-sub-topics ranging from “accuracy of results” to “search and seizure”. After determining the references that apply to a particular search, the researcher would then review the descriptive annotations under the periodical index, which is found in the second section of the book.

In order to assist the user further, Wong and Wilde have listed articles on diverse subjects under more than one topic area. Therefore, if a researcher were to look under the general topic of “labor law” and the sub-topic “drug testing programs, implementation of”, they would find a reference to an article by Glenn M. Wong and Richard J. Ensor addressing drug abuse in Major League Baseball. This same article could be found under the general topic “constitutional law”, sub-topic “drug testing”, and sub-sub-topic “professional sports”.

The second section of the book indexes the articles by periodical. Articles in this section are organized alphabetically by journal title and cover 288 different legal journals ranging from the *Adelaide Law Review* to *Yale Law Journal*. Wong and Wilde have done such an extensive job indexing the articles, that the user will even find law journals indexed in the periodical section that are no longer in print.

The true value of *The Sports Lawyer's Guide to Legal Periodicals*, and the major advantage of this index over other indexes, is that Wong and Wilde have included in the periodical index a brief descriptive annotation of each article. The annotations are well written and detailed enough to provide the user with not only an outline of the contents of the article, but also the author's conclusions. A user will particularly appreciate the descriptive annotations when they are trying to determine an article's suitability for a particular project.

Presumably, in an effort to keep the length of the book manageable and the cost down, Wong and Wilde have included descriptive annotations only in the periodical index section of the book. This may prove a slight inconvenience to some researchers as they must move from the subject or author index to the periodical index to find the descriptive annotation of articles that interest them. However, in only printing these annotations once, Wong and Wilde have succeeded in keeping the book reasonably priced by keeping the page limit down.

The final section of the book indexes the articles by author. Articles in the author index are listed alphabetically by the author's last name. If an article has two or more authors, it will be conveniently listed under each author's name. Also, unlike other indexes, *The Sport Lawyer's Guide to Legal Periodicals* includes the names of the student authors when ascertainable. If Wong and Wilde were unable to determine the

name of the student author, the article was listed under the name "unknown author".

After using *The Sport Lawyer's Guide to Legal Periodicals*, it is apparent that Wong and Wilde extended significant amounts of time and energy in gathering and organizing the material for their book. This resource is long overdue, and is certain to be eagerly welcomed by the sport law community. *The Sport Lawyer's Guide to Legal Periodicals*, is a practical and concise index that will not only save time and energy in the library, it will also change the way that sport law research is carried out.

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