

Book Review: Cases on Rights in Land, Second Edition, By Dean Bigelow

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BOOK REVIEWS

Bigelow. *Cases on Rights in Land*. Second Edition. West Publishing Company. St. Paul, Minn.

The high quality of Dean Bigelow's first edition is continued in the second edition of this outstanding case book on property. Like the first edition the book consists of two parts the first being the "Introduction to the Law of Real Property" and consisting of text and extracts from various writers, while the second part is in the form of the conventional case book. The author of this review has taught the historical part of real estate law by the methods proposed by both Warren and Bigelow and has found by experience that Bigelow's method is the solution of the problem. Both parts of the book have grown in length as compared with the first edition the first by seven and the second by seventy-one pages.

A check through the book discloses that unduly long opinions have been shortened by various devices if they have been included at all. Thus *Smith v. New England Aircraft Company* on page three has been cut down to four pages—a feat for which congratulations are due to the author. It is too plain for extended comment that very long opinions are practically useless in a case book. The great number of students simply refuse to read them.

A number of chapters overlap with chapters in other courses. This is not said by way of adverse comment. Such overlapping is unavoidable in the present stage of case book development. The remedy for it, where it is felt as an evil, is simple. The overlapping chapter may simply be omitted. Thus the chapter on "Equitable Enforcement of Agreements Running with the Land" may well be left to the instructor in equity.

Beyond what has already been said the writer of this review in advance of testing the book in the classroom does not presume to compare the second with the first edition. He feels confident however that the present edition is a decided improvement over the first; and he makes this statement without in any manner intending to cause any but favorable reflections on the first edition. As might be expected appropriate parts of the restatement propounded by the American Law Institute are to be found in various places in the book.

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