

Book Review: Handbook of the Law of Domestic Relations, by Joseph Madden

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Handbook of the Law of Domestic Relations. By Joseph Maden. Published by the West Publishing Company. (1931) 748 pages.

The tremendous progress and advancement of the past ten years has brought with it, "far-reaching developments centering around family life." With this in mind the author set out to fill a real need of a modern text discussing and analyzing, "the trends toward greater liberality in the law of annulment of marriage for fraud, and of divorce for mental cruelty, the effect on infant's contracts of this age of motor vehicles and installment buying, the new problems of tort liability of parents and children and husbands and wives."

This book should be especially valuable as collateral reading to a case book for students beginning the study of Persons & Domestic Relations. For the Senior who is preparing to take the Bar Examination this volume will prove to be a short cut for a complete, comprehensive and modern review of the subject, by referring to the excellent summaries in bold type which precedes each of the two-hundred and fifty-seven sections. The practicing lawyer might well afford to add this book to his library for ready reference of the most modern up-to-date book on the subject. Particularly appealing should be the very numerous citations of the leading Wisconsin cases in point throughout the book.

The volume is divided into four main parts:

PART ONE is entitled *Husband and Wife*, under which there are chapters devoted to 1. Marriage; 2. Property, Conveyances and Contracts of Married Women at Common Law; 3. Property, Conveyances and Contracts of Married Women in Equity; 4. Married Women's Property, Conveyances and Contracts in Modern Times; 5. Rights, Duties, and Disabilities Incident to Coverture in General; 6. Antenuptial and Postnuptial Settlements; 7. Divorce and Separation.

PART TWO is headed *Parent and Child*, and is sub-divided into 1. Legitimacy, Illegitimacy, and Adoption; 2. Custody of Children and Duties and Liabilities of Parents; 3. Rights and Privileges of Parents.

PART THREE, *Guardian and Ward*, dealing with the selection and appointment of Guardians; 2. Rights, Duties and Liabilities of Guardians; 3. Termination of Guardianship, Enforcing Guardians liability.

PART FOUR is given over to *Infants, Persons Non Compos Mentis, and Aliens*. An outstanding feature of this book are its profuse annotations citing and referring to the older leading cases, and the most modern statutes and decisions. "Citations to articles, notes, and comments in the legal magazines should provide access to valuable briefs of the law on many topics." There are approximately 11,430 cases cited. A Table of Cases Cited Index is given in the back of the book, which lists the cases according to Plaintiff-Defendant alphabetically.

Other outstanding features of the book are the Historical Sketch on the Capacity of Parties to Marry with reference to Relationship, and a short History of Divorce and Judicial Separation.

NATHAN WILLIS HELLER '33.