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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

APPELLATE JUDICIAL OPINIONS. Robert A. Leflar, ed. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co. 1974. Pp. xix, 343. The author has collated and republished excerpts from writings of eminent judges and jurists selected with a discrimination grown of his nineteen year’s experience as director of N.Y.U. School of Law Appellate Judges Seminar. Created as a guide for the writing of opinions by appellate judges, the stated purpose of the collection is to tempt its readers to seek out the full texts of those excerpts in which they develop an interest. Professor Leflar’s treatment includes both the philosophical—what great men have said about their own function as appellate jurists—and the practical—what an appellate judge must know to write an adequate opinion.

THE POTENTIAL FOR REFORM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Herbert Jacob, ed. Beverly Hills: Sage Publications. 1974. Pp. 352. Professor Jacob predicts a similar fate for the war on crime being waged with LEAA funds as that visited upon the OEO-funded war on poverty—failure. This collection of articles, contributed primarily by political and social scientists, attempts to mitigate that failure by drawing critical insights from three areas: police function and the relationship of training and function; aspects of the penal system and alternatives for reform; and the prison treatment of militant blacks. Each published selection is annotated with an extensive list of references.


cials recites much and suggests little. The balance of the work is given over to the narration of representative case law with scant attention to significant analysis. Proper footnotes accompany the text redeeming in part its value as a tool of introductory legal research.

Rough Justice: Perspectives on Lower Criminal Courts. John A. Robertson, ed. Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown & Co. 1974 Pp. xxix, 533. Professor Robertson’s anthology of essays is directed at illumination of the problems facing the lower criminal courts. Premised on the theory that for many people a first and only contact with law and judicial process will be an unpleasant experience in a municipal, misdemeanor, traffic or magistrate’s court, Professor Robertson addresses alternatives for reform as well as problems in the system. As suggested by the author, these materials provide a nucleus for courses in law, sociology, political science and criminal justice where the emphasis is on the gap between rules and reality.

The American Way of Divorce: Prescriptions for Change. Sheila Kessler. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, Inc. 1975 Pp. 216. Ms. Kessler argues for divorce reform in the interest of individuals who suffer through emotional divorce and for the sake of society which suffers the disruption and waste of its human and economic resources. Beyond stating a case for reform, the author presents a view of the ulcerating, emotional forces which play upon the separating pair with suggestions for therapeutic response. The volume is a concise guidebook in aid of the practitioner compelled to attend his clients as therapist as well as counselor.

Partial Justice: A Study of Bias in Sentencing. Willard Gaylin, M.D. New York: Alfred Knopf. 1974. Pp. xviii, 244. The nature of the judge, not the offense or the offender, determines the sentence imposed concludes the author qua psychoanalyst. Based on interviews with more than forty jurists, Dr. Gaylin identifies integrated values and experience as necessary intrusions upon discretion exercised by a trial judge in sentencing offenders. A reduction in the legitimate scope of discretion and an increase in gradations of punishment are two of the author’s recommendations for change.


