
Carl Zollman
BOOK REVIEWS

*American Family Law, Volume 2.* By Chester G. Vernier, Professor of Law, Stanford University. Published by Stanford University Press. ($5.00).

Some months ago we had the pleasure of reviewing Vol. 1 of this series called American Family Laws. Volume 2 has just come to hand. This volume deals with divorce and separation. The plan of preparation is the same as Volume 1 and the book shows the same painstaking care and monumental amount of research. Being based largely upon statutory law the book of course runs the risk which we pointed out in connection with the review of the first volume; that is, of becoming at once subjected to the perils of statutory changes in the various states.

This volume presents to the reviewer the most concrete proof of the necessity of some method of uniformity in divorce legislation which has yet come to the attention of the reviewer. Some amendments to the Federal Constitution have not been popular. However, there is a feeling that there should be a national divorce uniformity the same as national bankruptcy uniformity. Since that can only be brought about by an amendment to the Federal Constitution those of us who favor that uniformity are compelled to advocate the amendment. Those of us who have sat in the meetings of the uniform law commissioners know how hard it is to accomplish any uniformity in that body, on this subject. A mere glance at this book and the manner in which it is prepared showing the diversity in the various states is certainly sufficient to prove the wide divergence in the various states which ipso facto establishes the need of the uniformity.

We have subjected this book to some tests and we have not found it wanting in any respect. As test media we have used peculiarities of the Wisconsin law and peculiarities of the laws of some other states which were known to us, and we find the arrangement completely reflects these tests. The same system of references and notes are used which were used in the first volume, and so far as we have been able to find this is the most complete compilation of law review articles on the subject.

Clifton Williams

*Cases and Materials on the Law of Landlord and Tenant.* By Albert C. Jacobs, Associate Professor of Law, Columbia University. Published by West Publishing Company. (903 pages).

This is not only a new subject for the law school curriculum but is also another step in the development of the case method of instruction back to the systems of instruction in vogue before Professor Langdell was appointed dean of Harvard University Law School. The "questions" appended to many of the cases in the text and quite frequently even to the "digested cases" are reminiscent of the old quiz method of teaching and learning the law. The "digested cases" bring the book much closer to a digest textbook than any casebook which the writer has seen accomplishes by copious notes. Of course this method of treating cases has its advantages. Unduly long opinions (which are read if read at all with reluctance by students and even instructors when published in full)
can be telescoped into a shape in which they are more acceptable. A large num-
ber of cases (the table of cases shows that the total number of cases in the book
is about 1500) can be given a place without expanding the book beyond reason.
In consequence the cases actually published in the volume are with but few
exceptions of reasonable length (a statement that would not be true in regard
to many standard casebooks).

The book very rationally begins with a 21 page chapter entitled "Lease
Forms" thus introducing the student who has never seen a lease directly to the
subject matter which he is to study. As might be supposed at least one third of
the volume deals directly with covenants. How much in addition is concerned
indirectly with this most interesting part of the subject perhaps even the author
himself would not be able to state. To the extent that the book deals with
covenants it naturally overlaps with Professor Bigelow's "Rights in Land" pub-
lished by the same publisher as a part of the American Casebook Series. The
book contains twenty-five chapters nine of which are subdivided into from two
to six sections making thirty-one section all told. There are therefore forty-
seven distinct subdivisions. The notes which bulk so large in many of the
modern casebooks are in consequence of the expedient of the "digested case"
reduced to quite reasonable proportions. How to cover the immense material
presented by the book in the ordinary course of two or three or even four
semester hours of course is a problem which the writer of this review is unable
to solve.

The wide range of the book however makes it a volume which students will
wish to retain for their library rather than make a species of negotiable instru-
ment out of it by selling it to members of succeeding classes. In addition it is
a volume which lawyers long past their school period will wish to buy as a
permanent acquisition to their library. For this latter purpose, however, the
index consisting as it does of only ten pages is not all that it might be.

CARL ZOLLMAN.

*Cases in Partnership.* By Clark and Douglas. Published by West

To review a book adequately one must have read it from cover to cover.
One is not expected to read a casebook that way. Perhaps to be fair to the edi-
tors a reviewer should have used the casebook in class before he comments about
it. It is presumed, however, that the reading public demands its reviews while the
books are new. Consequently, the reviewer must compromise with facts. He
probably has used casebooks on the same subject, he knows some of the cases
that are in this one, he looks at the general plan the editor has laid out, he
makes some broad comments about the subject at hand, and some equally broad
comments about the plan of the book. That is what this reviewer has done, and
what he intends to do.

One premise which all instructors in Partnership emphasize, and rightly so,
is that the individual members of the firm are personally responsible for firm
obligations. Limited partnerships are the exceptions. In studying the cases one
is concerned not at all with whether that premise is true or untrue, but he is
concerned with finding out how and when those obligations can be created. He
is concerned with knowing what relief the courts afford to the several creditors.
He wants to find out how and when those creditors can reach the assets of the