

## Elements of Constitutional Law

H. Allen

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### Repository Citation

H. Allen, *Elements of Constitutional Law*, 12 Marq. L. Rev. 250 (1928).  
Available at: <http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/mulr/vol12/iss3/16>

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*Elements of Constitutional Law*, written by Professor Ben Albert Arneson and published by Harper & Bros., of New York City.

This book has as its primary aim the purpose of providing an elementary treatise on the law of the American Constitution, which may be usable as a text in liberal arts courses on the subject of Constitutional Law. It has also been prepared in the hope that the general American reader, whose average cognizance of the Constitution consists of an obscure impression that George Washington "had a lot to do with it," will read and be thereby enlightened.

The work fulfills both of these ends admirably, in that it covers the vast amount of law represented by our Constitution, in a very concise and readable fashion. The narrative style of the text is well calculated to capture the attention of that type of American whom Professor Arneson hopes to educate, and at the same time the extent of its content might very profitably attract the attention of many attorneys.

Professor Arneson is neither a sneering cynic who advocates complete destruction, nor is he a weeping patriot, crying, "Woodman, spare that tree." The Constitution is viewed in all of its aspects; it is thoroughly analyzed, explained, and clarified. The reader is left to form his own conclusions. A very lucid distinction is drawn between the actual mass of legal precepts that is established by the Constitution in and of itself, and the great body of bench made law that has emanated from our Supreme Court. Cases are cited to illustrate this important branch of judicial legislation and in this manner the work presents a clear, interesting analysis of all important aspects of our government.

H. ALLEN

*The Law of Carriers*, by Frederick Green, Professor of Law, University of Illinois. Second edition. Published by West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minnesota, 1927. 850 pages.

The purpose of the author in writing this text is to give to the students of law an extensive and systematic application of the subject of carriage as handled by the legislatures, commissions, and courts. Though the subject of carriers began in maritime affairs, modern business has created many important changes to complicate the matter.

Carriage, like insurance, is peculiar in the respect that it has been founded on many important principles which first appeared in maritime affairs. Its obligations have been founded on customs which developed within the field of contracts.

A literary aspect of carriage has been defined by the English author Francis Bacon, in these few words: "Man has no power over Nature, except that of motion; he can put material bodies together and he can separate them . . . it is Nature which governs everything." Since all activities consists in moving things, the moving which is carriage needs considerable study to establish a foundation upon which to build all later law.

Green has accomplished his purpose by selecting the most important cases on the subject, and dividing them into six parts. He has been constantly aware of the many questions that might be asked under each heading, and endeavored to answer them by the various cases.

A thorough knowledge of the subject of carriers may be had by studying Green's concise text, *The Law of Carriers*.

BERT J. LANDREE