Book Reviews

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Repository Citation

John McDill Fox, Book Reviews, 8 Marq. L. Rev. 191 (1924).
Available at: http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/mulr/vol8/iss3/9
BOOK REVIEWS


The above two volumes are companion books of the Hornbook Series, the second being revised by the author of the first.

To those who approve of the Hornbook series, the third edition of McKelvey will be welcome. The style is clear and the didactic syllabi lend themselves rather easily to effortless assimilation. If this be a desirable pedagogic end then the text will serve as a very ready means. To the present reviewer this has never seemed desirable. The text is a very clear and rapid statement of the law of evidence as it is to-day and has been brought up to date. For review purposes and for a busy trial-lawyer who wishes to brush up on types of cases infrequently met with in a specialized practice, the book is excellent. One regrets that there is not more forward looking criticism of evidence as it exists, for the benefit of the lawyer of to-morrow. The author's eminence and soundness it is felt should be used for effective propaganda against certain existing evils which he seems to recognize, in his preface exist. While the practicing bar usually feels that a text on evidence should confine itself to evidence as it exists in the courts, it is submitted that for students, more of the sturdy constructive criticism of Wigmore should be present.

The table of contents and the index render the matter easily accessible. The case book is a most excellent selection of material carefully arranged and brought down to modern times. The table of contents, which follows the order of presentation of the text is a veritable outline of the law of evidence. If it be held proper pedagogy to have a text accompany a selection of cases, and those cases all analyzed by an expert, these two books should prove most valuable in a class room. The criticism of the present reviewer with reference to the case book is that the work is too well done and leaves nothing to the student in reading the cases to analyze, distinguish or compare. It presents a most lucid group of illustrations of the principles outlined in the text. One can not help but feel that the student should be taught to analyze these things himself. While all of the material is excellent it would seem that special attention should be called to the cases on Writings as being unusually good examples.

John McDill Fox


This work is at once a text book for law students, giving the fundamentals of legal bibliography, that is, where to find the law, and a hand book setting forth methods of finding the law for the benefit of everyone wishing to make use of Anglo-American legal literature.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I deals with the classification of law books, contains a description and an analysis of particular books including statutes, reports, appeal papers, treaties, legal dictionaries, encyclopedias, digests and search books.

Part II is devoted to information about law libraries, including catalogs, arrangement of books and suggestions of what a working law library should contain. These suggestions should prove helpful to law librarians in the judicious selection of books.

Part III is primarily a legal bibliographical manual containing lists of law books, including legal periodicals, lists of legal abbreviations, table of regnal years, and lists of American, English, Irish, Scotch and Canadian law reports.

In keeping with the internal merit of the book is the excellent index which is in reality a "key" to the knowledge and information it contains.