

An Introduction to the Law of Contract (4th Edition)
Stephen Graw
 Lawbook Company, RRP\$66.73

Stephen Graw's new and updated fourth edition of *An Introduction to the Law of Contract* published by LawBook Company is great.

The book is a pleasingly slender volume and is a cross between a nutshell and a casebook (with an emphasis on the nutshell). It is aimed at students from disciplines other than law however, until you can answer the questions at the end of each chapter off the top of your head, you need this book.

I have a dog-eared copy of the second edition that I picked it up in an op shop while a student. I remember pulling it out in an exam and feeling ashamed by the title, believing that I really should know more about contracts than what can be provided by a mere introduction to the subject.

But I now find it is right up there with my legal dictionary – another book that saves me having to overload my brain with important information.

The fourth edition is a winner. For a start it is not dog eared (yet) however the white cover may not so easily hide the coffee rings and unfortunately the label on the spine won't become illegible with over use.

It has a new introductory chapter, a right little pot boiler, introducing the Australian legal system. I can see this chapter coming in handy at some crazy legal quiz night or should you find yourself holding forth in a heated discussions about the demise of law and order.

Apart from this helpful new chapter the text maintains its other useful characteristics.

It is well set out with an index that will readily tweak the grey cells and call to life ghosts of lectures past.

There is your new client with a deal gone wrong and there's you thinking "now this rings a bell....", and the index will put you right on the buzzer.

Each chapter is clearly and logically set out and the principal cases referred to. The facts of each case are summarised and then the decision is equally abridged.

No more reading page after page in the casebook, in a typically fruitless and often frantic search for some elusive *ratio decidendi*. Once you have reminded yourself of the seminal case, you are then able to springboard into more in-depth research on the specific part of the deal gone wrong.

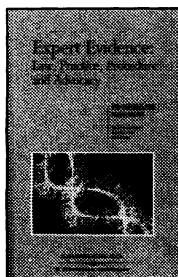
Hopefully you will find that snowball wandering aimlessly and unscathed through hell and get your client out of any particular pickle.

It's also slim enough to flick around and checking related subjects to ensure you haven't launched the wrong missile.

In summary it is not a book you criticise. I am sure if you look hard enough you will see rough patches that will be always present when you try and gloss over legal or factual issues. This book is a fantastic means to an end and if you are smart enough you will not need it.

But if you are like me, a super model trapped in a lawyer's overworked and underpaid body, you will have this little life saver on you bookshelf and refer to it often.

- **Megan Lennie BA LLB (hons) solicitor, Hunt & Hunt**



Expert Evidence: Law, Practice, Procedure and Advocacy
Ian Freckleton and Hugh Selby
 Lawbook Company, RRP \$132

"In matters of opinion I very much distrust expert evidence..."
 Sir George Jessel MR (1873)

This is a ripper read! Well written, well set out and chock-full of everything you always wanted to know but were too afraid to ask.

Our learned friends the authors (seven degrees between them) are well known as the experts on the experts and have written and edited the remarkable loose leaf publication we have all seen in large libraries and even larger law firms.

The Northern Territory starts with a great many ground-breaking, and sometimes contentious decisions including *Nepi*, *Latcha*, *Secretary* and of course *Chamberlain*.

Latcha for example came under heavy criticism over its treatment of the psychiatrist/psychologist/expertise/barrier/conundrum that finally forced the Australian Psychological Society to issue its *Position Statement on the assessment and diagnoses of PTSD* (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), which

thankfully clarifies the issue. They also serve who only sit and wait.

The authors with admirable diligence canvass the law in not only the different Australian jurisdictions but also the other common law countries, carefully comparing, contrasting, and where necessary complaining, while advocating the continued improvement of this area of the law.

The rules of expert evidence are clearly stated, the role of the expert explained, and the proliferation of new areas of scientific evidence classified and discussed.

Syndrome evidence in its various disguises is unmasked and one is prepared gently for the inevitable

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