

## Books Noted

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## BOOKS NOTED

*A Citizens Guide to Legal Rights.* BY J. SHANE CREAMER. Pennsylvania: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1971. Pp. 336. \$7.95.

This work can be favorably viewed as being a fresh "nuts and bolts" approach to the constitutional and practical problems facing the American criminal justice system. The author acknowledges the dilemmas of an overworked and undermanned criminal system attempting to fulfill the impatient expectations of its citizenry. Creamer warns that in an effort to reach a solution shortcuts may be taken by authorities which may ultimately endanger the basic liberties of our society. Thus, his motivation for writing this book is to inform the citizens of their rights so that they will become "a nation of well informed men . . . (and avoid) the regions of ignorance (in which) tyranny begins." (Benjamin Franklin)

The author, an experienced criminal attorney sets out to explain the constitutional rights of a citizen and how these rights are effected, protected and possibly eroded when the state points the "accusing finger" at an individual. The procedural rights contained in the fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth and fourteenth amendments are focused upon. Safeguards against illegal arrest, searches and seizures, the right to silence, counsel, confrontation; as well as other due process rights are illustratively discussed by giving real life examples of their operation.

Because of the intricacies of such areas as probable cause, search and seizure, and the exclusionary rule, the simple format of presentation changes at the halfway point to a fairly involved and sophisticated discussion of Supreme Court decisions involving the fourth, fifth, sixth and fourteenth amendments. Consequently, the success of the author in reaching and enlightening the working man as a goal is diminished. However, as to the civil or corporate practitioner this book offers an entertaining, well structured and informative format upon which to "brush up" in the procedural and constitutional areas of the criminal law.

*Narcotics Cases: Prosecution and Defense.* EDITED BY BRIAN FREEMAN. New York: P.L.I. 1970. Pp. 1172.

In recent years, few areas of the law have stirred such great interest and controversy as that of narcotics. The stated objective of this volume is to assist the practicing attorney in understanding the legal ramifications of a narcotics case. To accomplish this objective the editor has culled the most comprehensive and well written articles from the plethora of recent works dealing with the subject of narcotics. The end result of this culling process is to provide the reader with a well organized practical overview of the subject matter. Especially noteworthy are those portions of the volume which deal with constitutional and evidentiary issues encountered in the handling of a narcotics case. In addition the editor has

provided an individual listing of bibliographical materials for each topical discussion.

The compilation of materials will enable the attorney to save much research time and hence, will provide him with a valuable addition to his personal library.

*Medical Aspects of Negligence Cases.* BY CHARLES KRAMER. New York: P.L.I. 1970. Pp. 167.

The lawyer tends to approach the medical aspects of negligence with trepidation. Some of this timidity may be justified since the average lawyer has not studied medicine. However, justifying his feelings of insecurity will not solve the problem. The problem must be solved because a proper presentation of the injuries involved is often determinative of the value of his case. Fortunately, most lawyers are competent to deal with average medical problems, for the approach taken is no different than that taken with any legal problem.

This volume is designed to prepare the lawyer for the medical aspects involved in personal injury cases. The necessity of a physical examination is explained and when and how it should be conducted. The importance of hospital records, how to acquire them, how to use them and how to have them admitted into evidence are all thoroughly discussed by the author.

The author has devoted the greater portion of the volume to the trial itself. Suggestions as to the drafting of both plaintiff's and defendant's opening statements are put forth by the author. Numerous techniques of direct and cross-examination by both lay and expert witnesses are discussed and illustrated. Included are discussions of the summation and special medical problems, such as Cancer, Diabetes and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The volume also contains an appendix which features a bibliography of medical books and a glossary of medical terms.

The author has successfully pinpointed the various medical features critical to the development and success of the personal injury case and has demonstrated that the lawyer can penetrate the mysteries of medicine and make them serve his client.