BOOK REVIEWS

ADVOCACY WITH HONOUR by John Phillips. Sydney, The Law Book Company Limited, 1985. 100pp Paperback. Australian Price A\$12.50.

The fruits of humanity's struggles over the centuries — the ideals of democratic freedom — will fall to the ground and rot unless there exist advocates

inspired by a generous love of fame, and desirous of honourably assisting in the administration of justice, by obtaining redress for the injured, and defending the innocent, who have liberally studied the science of jurisprudence, and have stored their minds and refined their tastes by a general acquaintance with elegant literature, who have an intuitive insight into human character and the workings of human passion, who possess discretion as well as courage and caution along with enthusiasm, who are not only able by their powers of persuasion to give the best chance of success to every client whom they represent in every variety of private causes, but who are able to defeat conspiracies against public liberty, ... and who, by the victories gained and the principles established, place the free constitution of their country on an imperishable basis. [Lord Campbell's description of Thomas Erskine.]

So suggests a significant proportion of this small book on the art and practice of advocacy by John Phillips, the first Director of Public Prosecutions for the State of Victoria (Australia) and, later, a Judge of that State's Supreme Court, and it is this first part of his book which constitutes its major drawback — conjuring up, as it does, some terrifying Rider of the Apocalypse, complete with fiery sword, come to do legal battle for Truth, Justice and the Australian Way.

The first chapter of Phillips' Advocacy With Honour, coloured perhaps by the author's position in the legal system, concentrates virtually solely on the duties of advocates as towards their clients and, although token recognition is given to duties towards other individuals and institutions, Phillips avoids any mention of resolution of conflicting duties — indeed, he manages to avoid any mention of possible inconsistency.

It is considered, however, that the very basis of the structure of advocates' ethics is that advocates owe duties to many — the State, the Court, the advocate's opponent, and the advocate's own integrity — and from these duties conflicts are bound to arise.

Advocacy With Honour, however, is substantially worthwhile once Phillips leaves the abstract topic of ethical advocacy and deals with the practicalities of courtwork. He leads the reader on an informative, practical and succinct journey through all the aspects of work in the Courts. Discussed in some detail are pre-trial preparations, re-examinations, exhibits, final addresses and pleas in mitigation. Of particular value is the enormous amount of practical detail the author has seen fit to include in his exposition. He deals with the advocate's preparation for trial in such depth that systems for organisation of notes and documents are promulgated. Additionally, studded throughout the practical parts of his book are advocatory "hints" undoubtedly born of Phillips' wealth of experience both before and on the bench.

Phillips is to be congratulated on giving pleas in mitigation the stature they receive in his book. Too frequently advocates ignore the importance of the plea — "Nothing much, just a plea today" — and Phillips rightly castigates such attitudes, as they are

formed in ignorance of one of the substantial realities of professional practice — the difficulty faced by judges and magistrates during the sentencing process.

He continues to give a detailed analysis of what factors assist a judge in such a plea and in what way they ought to be framed.

Phillips ends his book with a cautionary tale about one Dr Kenealy QC who, in the course of an enormous case which he had taken on virtually single-handed, appeared to have cracked under the strain and delivered what Cockburn LCI called

one unceasing torrent of invective and foul slander ... sent forth wherewith to blacken the character of men whose reputations have hitherto been without reproach.

The jury convicted Kenealy's client and expressed their opinion that

the charges of bribery, conspiracy and undue influence brought against the prosecution in this case are entirely devoid of foundation, ... [and the jury] regret exceedingly the violent language and demeanour of the leading counsel for the defendant in his attacks upon the conduct of the prosecution and upon the witnesses produced in the case.

Dr Kenealy QC subsequently had his patent as Queen's Counsel revoked and was disbarred by the Benchers of Gray's Inn. If only Kenealy had heard Lord Eldon's admonition with which Phillips begins his book:

The advocate lends his exertions to all, himself to none.

By Advocacy With Honour, Phillips "lends his exertions to all" and delivers a book which is rare in the field of law — a book of extreme practical application for courtwork.

— Pheroze Jagose

VENDOR & PURCHASER: COMMENTARY AND MATERIALS by CJ Rossiter. Sydney, The Law Book Company Limited, 1985. xxvii and 430 and (index) 6pp. Australian price A\$35.00

The growth in case law in the area of vendor and purchaser within the last decade, has been nothing short of prolific. Various statutory reforms and a volatile economic climate have ensured that conveyancing transactions and disputes remain very much an integral part of most legal practices.

It comes as some surprise therefore to note the absence of any definitive record of such materials and cases, for the benefit of New Zealand practioners and students. Mr Rossiter's text goes some way to redressing this situation, despite its accent toward the law of vendor and purchaser as it stands in New South Wales.

The book traces the law of vendor and purchaser, from the formation of the contract in a logical progression to remedies for its breach. The coverage is comprehensive including particularly detailed chapters on options, the deposit and requisitions on title. These subjects are examined by the reproduction of quite detailed case extracts, accompanied by commentary and questions.

This type of format has noticeable advantages, both for the practitioner and student. In a legal environment where time is so often of the essence, a text which combines relevant extracts from most of the leading cases with a learned commentary, is surely most useful. The series of questions throughout the book, provide an additional benefit for students.

Of course there is the obvious danger of relying too heavily on an adbridged version of any case, and those seeking more detail than a casebook of general principles provides must look further. Nevertheless, as the text is primarily aimed at conveying a basic understanding of what is a complex field of law, it should live up to its stated objectives.

Rossiter states that while he wrote with particular reference to the standard form contract of sale used in New South Wales, he hopes the book will be of assistance in the study of the subject in other jurisdictions. Certainly some of the details discussed are of limited relevance in New Zealand, but as the author suggests, the general principles of vendor and purchaser are readily applicable in other jurisdictions such as our own.

The great majority of extracts are from Australian cases with only limited reference to New Zealand decisions. Whilst this is a disadvantage for New Zealand readers, such is the degree of similarity between the law of New South Wales and that of New Zealand, that the value of the text is still apparent. It is worth noting that several leading decisions from the United Kingdom have been reproduced and discussed fully, and a large number of the cases mentioned would undoubtedly form an

integral part of any course of study in vendor and purchaser in this country.

For the New Zealand student it can serve only as an introductory text, requiring supplementation from New Zealand statutes and legal writing. However, as a source of first reference, the book is a welcome acquisition.

— Don Mackinnon

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW ZEALAND LEGAL SYSTEM by RD Mulholland. Wellington, Butterworths, 1985 1v and 319pp. Paperback price \$48.00

The preface to the sixth edition of Mulholland's work indicates that the book is aimed at both "the student and the general reader desiring an introductory text in the general law of New Zealand", and this aim is substantially and successfully achieved. In nineteen chapters Mulholland not only states the law in each area but also canvasses related legal and extra-legal issues.

The first chapter of the book goes beyond the scope of the typical introductory legal system text by incorporating discussion of issues which force the reader to question the relationships between a society, its legal structure and its form of government. The chapter gives an informal introduction to jurisprudence, which is extended by a discussion headed "What is law?".

An examination of the institutional nature of legal systems, which aptly follows the introductory chapter, deals briefly with the constitution, parliament, our political structures and local bodies. The muchmooted Bill of Rights is also discussed.

The Court structure in New Zealand is introduced by a brief history of the English Courts. The jurisdiction and hierarchy of the Courts are discussed in this chapter, as is the role of the Courts.

The fourth chapter deals with the sources and scope of legislation in this country, and extends to a section on statutory interpretation.

A novel technique used in Chapter Five helps to explain the pervasiveness of the law in our lives. The day of an average New Zealander, Fred, is examined, and the effect of the law is illustrated in his making of a contract with the milkman, having employment and being a member of a family unit. The chapter would be of particular use to a lay reader, and it is concluded with a look at procedural aspects of civil and criminal actions, writs and legal aid.

Chapter Six ambitiously undertakes to examine "the legal process". Again, a brief history is very useful. The adversary system and our system of precedent are used to illustrate judicial reasoning. A guide to reading cases follows a section on law reporting.

After a brief examination of legal personality in Chapter Seven, the book deals with specific areas of law, such as contract, torts, family law, agency, property and many others. These areas are covered briefly but adequately, with the common law position serving as a basis of contrast with the statutory provisions. One criticism of the discussion of hire purchase law however, is that the Hire Purchase and Credit Sales Stabilisation Regulations are explained without mention of their substantial revocation in 1983.

Chapter Eighteen raises the question of law reform — the forces which lead to law reform and the methods of achieving it. Useful illustrations of recent reforms are given.

Finally Chapter Nineteen, entitled "Legal Literature and Research" provides a guide to legal writings. The book is completed by case and statute appendices, and glossaries of both Latin and legal terms. Easy references and access to the book's contents are made possible by summary and table contents in the front, and an index in the back.

The format is of a comparable quality with the content of the book. The print is of a reasonable size, and the headings are clear and bold printed. However, throughout the book a number of grammatical and spelling errors mar an otherwise extremely useful general introduction to our legal system.

- Melanie Tollemache

FAMILY PROTECTION AND TESTAMENTARY PROMISES IN NEW ZEALAND by WN Patterson. Wellington, Butterworths, 1985. Hardcover price \$57.00.

It is thirty years since a textbook on the subject of the Family Protection Act 1955 has been published. In that time there has been an important change in the way in which the courts interpret that Act. This book provides a comprehensive commentary on the changing attitude of the courts to claims under the Family Protection Act 1955 and the practice and procedure relating to those claims.

The book also deals with another major area of legislation which operates in the same social area as the Family Protection Act 1955, namely the Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949.

In addition, the book contains a concise chapter dealing with the increasing tendency for widows to make claims under the Family Protection Act and the Matrimonial Property Act 1963.

The fact that claims brought under these three related statutes are dealt with in the one work will make this text an essential addition to all practioners' libraries and an excellent reference text for students.

The book is divided into 17 chapters all of which are well structured and follow each other in logical order. Each chapter has a useful intro-

ductory paragraph which briefly previews the content of the subsequent paragraphs. Detailed cross-referencing within the text and numerous references to relevant cases are features of all chapters.

The text begins with an introductory chapter on the history of the Family Protection Act 1955. This is followed by two chapters dealing with the concept of a testator's moral duty and the interesting problem of the date at which a breach of moral duty must be established. Chapter 4 reviews the considerations that have affected the quantum of claims while Chapter 5 studies factors which may prevent the right to relief. Chapters 6, 7, and 8 provide useful commentaries for the practitioner, dealing with the commencement of proceedings, extensions of time for commencing proceedings and the powers and duties of administrators. Chapter 9 deals with the law relating to contracting out of the Act, while Chapter 10 is again particularly useful from the practitioners' point of view as it sets out the practice and procedure relating to the disposal of a claim.

The next five chapters deal with claims by various people namely: widows and widowers, children, grandchildren, stepchildren and parents, illegitimate and adopted persons. Chapter 16 deals most helpfully with concurrent claims under the Matrimonial Property Act 1963 and the Family Protection Act 1955. Chapter 17 reviews the law under the Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949. The appendices include the Family Protection Act 1955, the Status of Children Act 1969, ss 45 – 51 Administration Act 1969, the Matrimonial Property Act 1963, Section 57 Matrimonial Property Act 1976, the unreported judgment of Roper J in *Bossi v Public Trustee* [Christchurch 507/76] and the Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949.

In conclusion, although this book is beautifully bound and presented, it must be noted that it contains many typographical errors. Nevertheless the content of the work is outstanding and its detailed practical emphasis as well as its clear analysis of the law make it an essential reference for the practitioner.

- Jackie Adams

A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NEW ZEALAND. Legal Research Foundation Inc., Auckland, 1985. 217 pp. Price \$15.00.

This book contains the principal papers presented at the seminar of the same name, organised by the Legal Research Foundation, at the University of Auckland on 16 August 1985. It provides an excellent cross-section of the arguments and issues raised both for and against the proposed Bill of Rights.

It begins with "An Historical and Philosophical Perspective on the Proposal for a Bill of Rights" by Dr Andrew Sharp. He places the Bill in the context of the modern liberal-democratic tradition, a tradition which seeks to enact fundamental procedural rights as opposed to substantive values, such as those in an economic area. Thus the Bill attempts to set down what unites New Zealanders rather than what divides them. Dr Sharp analyses the historical background and ideology of these rights and examines the need for a consensus of the nation as to exactly what rights do unite them. Contiguously, he examines the contradictory bases of legitimacy claimed for the Bill and shows how they compare with other historical claims made for other Bills of Rights and similar documents. Ultimately he is skeptical as to the wisdom of setting down as supreme law what he sees as dangerously vague and contradictory intuitions.

Professor KJ Keith's paper "A Bill of Rights for New Zealand? Judicial Review Versus Democracy" restates many of the arguments for the Bill. It provides an international comparison of the debates in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and New Zealand. His conclusion is that a Bill of Rights could restrain the excesses of the democratic process in the interest of important values and notes that the various tasks that will be asked of our judges are not so distant from those that they currently undertake.

DAR Williams in his paper "Some Operational Aspects of the Bill of Rights", concentrates on the operational problems which the implementation of a Bill of Rights might cause and the changes that it might require of our lawyers, judges and court system. He finds the Bill both judicially manageable and stylistically simple. He sees the need for distinct principals of constitutional interpretation and he analyses the justified limitation clause in Article 3 as a defence to potential rigidity. He too is of the opinion that a new role for the judiciary and lawyers is not unrealistic. He sees the need for a massive educational effort to ensure the successful introduction of the Bill and the examination in advance of our judicial system to handle the increased litigation.

In their paper "The Bill of Rights — a Woman's Perspective" Francis Joychild (Human Rights Commission), Prue Kapua (Race Relations Office) and Shayne Mathieson (State Services Commission) present something of a Brandeis brief with a socio-economic analysis of the position of women in New Zealand today and just how ineffectual the Bill will be in addressing the problems of inequality that face 51 per cent of the members of this nation. This paper presents a useful analysis of the American case law on women asserting the equal protection clause under the 14th Amendment, showing just how slow and ineffectual the Bill of Rights was to protect half its citizens from abuse. Thus Article 12 of our proposed Bill of Rights is not seen as a safeguard for women's interests. The authors of this paper see the choice of rights in the Bill as bypassing the needs of women.

His Honour Chief Judge ETA Durie, Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court, and President of the Waitangi Tribunal presents a fine paper which analyses both case law and statutes in an attempt to show how both the courts and Parliament have failed to recognise Maori rights since the Treaty of Waitangi. However he approves of the entrenching of the Treaty into our constitution via the Bill and discusses whether, in future, Maori rights should be determined in the general courts.

"Is the Treaty of Waitangi a Bill of Rights?" by Ripeka Evans (Maori Economic Development Commission) feels that the issue that should be at the heart of the Bill of Rights is that of Maori sovereignty. Successive governments have failed to accept their obligations under the Treaty and Mr Evans sees the Bill of Rights as either a genuine attempt to acknowledge this responsibility or else merely a cosmetic appeasement by white middle class New Zealand society to the Maori people.

On the other hand Shane Jones of the Maungarongo Centre, Te Kopuru, opposes the Bill in its entirely in his paper "The Bill of Rights and Te Tirito O Waitangi". He argues that the Treaty should be entrenched, without the baggage of the bill, as the foundation of this country's constitution. He sees the bill as denying Maoris their guaranteed sovereignty as Tangata-whenua of Aotearoa. The Bill would merely affirm the current power distribution making what he sees as morally wrong, politically right.

In the introduction to the White Paper, Jeffery Palmer, Minister of Justice, said that "the purpose of the draft bill is to engender debate and provide a focus for the issues" (p.6). If the only thing it does is to engender debate of the quality and diversity of this book then it has done its job well. But should it be passed into the supreme law of New Zealand, then this book may very well become compulsory reading in the years to come.

- John Kovacevich

SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS AND POLICE COURT PRACTICE, by TG Maxwell. Wellington, Butterworths. 1985. xxix and 594 pp. Hardcover price \$78.00.

This is a practitioner's manual written by a respected judge of the District Court of New Zealand. It is a worthy successor to Wily's Summary Proceedings and Police Court Practice, Butterworths (4th ed) 1969. For both the lawyer and the law student, this is an extremely useful book. It is comprehensive in its detail and very clear in the way it is set out. After 16 years a change of author has occurred and during that time an enormous change in legislation has taken place, making such a book essential.

Whereas Wily was able to give extensive coverage of the law in this area, including chapters on the then Police Offences Act 1927, and the Criminal Justice Act 1954, plus an appendix on the Crimes Act 1961, because of the increase in the case law, Judge Maxwell has rightly narrowed his focus to the Summary Proceedings Act 1957 and its corre-

lative statutes, and allowed other specialised texts to deal in depth with subjects to which one book could never do justice.

To be of greatest use, this book should be read alongside Wily and Crutchley's *District Court Practice*, Butterworths, (8th ed 1980), Garrow and Caldwell's *Criminal law and Practice in New Zealand*, Sweet and Maxwell, (2nd ed 1971).

The format of the text follows the previous edition. It is written in the form of an annotated version of the Act, as amended at the date of writing, where each reprinted section is followed by notes explaining its effect, and the case law and practice upon it. The book is highly recommended not only for its coverage of the Summary Proceedings Act 1957, and all its amendments and regulations, but also for its coverage of the Children and Young Persons Act 1974, the Costs in Criminal Cases Act 1967, the Offenders Legal Aid Act 1954, the Inferior Courts Procedure Act 1909, and the Justices of the Peace Act 1957. The forthcoming publication of a new edition of Luxford's *Police Law in New Zealand*, Butterworths, (3rd ed 1967), has made it unnecessary to cover the Summary Offences Act 1981, but for covenience, the Act is reprinted at the end of the book unannotated.

This book is addressed to and written for the practitioner. For this reason, law students at the beginning of their legal education, are perhaps better advised to begin with Doyle's *Criminal Procedure in New Zealand*, The Law Book Company, ed Hodge (2nd ed 1984), which is specifically designed as an introduction to the mosaic of the law in this area.

Judge Maxwell's book is very different from its predecessor in both content and philosophy. Its depth of coverage is greater though its focus has narrowed, necessarily, to the most important Acts of our summary justice system. To this extent, it supercedes the previous edition and is highly recommended.

- John Kovacevich

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE by Partlett. Sydney, The Law Book Company Limited, 1985. Hard Covers. Australian price A\$48.00.

This is the most recent of a trio of contemporary books on this subject. The others — all bearing the same title — are by Dugdale and Stanton (Butterworths (UK) 1982, and Jackson (Sweet & Maxwell 1982).

The two earlier English works differ markedly in the way they subdivide the subject. Dugdale & Stanton seek to describe the state of the law as it appears to be — in the U.K. at least - and proceed to carve up the subject on the basis of common law categories; first negligence, then contract, equity and miscellaneous liabilities such as deceit, battery and conversion. Next follows a study of the standard of care as applied across the various professions, and then the authors return to generalities as they progress predictably through an examination of the extent of liability, vicarious liability, and protection from liability. As a quick reference tool geared to state the law as it stood in 1982, the work is well laid out, and easy to use. The tables of statutes and cases are adequate, and it is well indexed. A major weakness from this side of the world is its British emphasis — one looks in vain for Commonwealth statutes and cases, and comparative discussions of no-fault schemes are not to be found.

Jackson, on the other hand, devotes a relatively small proportion of his work to the broad consideration of common law principles (the approach favoured by Dugdale & Stanton) and instead, approaches the subject piece-meal, profession by profession. Within each profession, the information is arranged methodically in order of common law categories, but to extract broad trends common to all or many professions requires some dexterity. There is rather more attention to Commonwealth sources in this work, including references to Canadian, Australian and New Zealand statutes and cases, but usually only insofar as they throw light on the state of English law. Members of the various professions would probably prefer to use a book relating more specifically to their own particular subject area, while lawyers could well be irked by the subdivision into professions rather than common-law categories.

Partlett, by comparison, seems a more thoughtful, and to the New Zealand scholar or practitioner, a more relevant work. The author is concerned with the state of the law from a conceptual as well as a descriptive point of view, and in discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the bases for decisions, and the approaches taken in different jurisdictions, is able to point the way to possible future reforms. This is not to undermine the value of the work as a reference tool, however; although the lay-out of contents is not as familiar and predictable as the more traditional Dugdale and Stanton, the excellent index allows access to issues raised throughout the text, including many entries under particular professions. This enhances its value to the practitioner as well as to the scholar.

A further strength of this work from an Antipodean point of view is that it is an Australian publication, and although there is no table of statutes, there are wider references to and comparisons with the present state of the law in the Commonwealth and the U.S.A. New Zealand's no-fault Accident Compensation Act is discussed in the context of alternatives to common law fault, a section of the book which draws heavily on Australian, U.S., Canadian and N.Z. jurisprudence, legislation, and law reform recommendations. This is an interesting and informative chapter, and for usefulness and relevance to this part of the world compares more than favourably with the two English works. Dugdale and Stanton's brief account of insurance against liability is set against a wholly British or Euro-British background, while Jackson's reference to no-fault compensation is laconic in the extreme.

Partlett's balanced approach in placing the law in context is particularly well exemplified in a final hasty 'stop press' note devoted to the implications of Sutherland Shire Council v Heyman, a decision of the Australian High Court on an appeal from the NSW Court of Appeal (4 July 1985). This authoritative decision is examined not only in the context of the developing Australian law in this area, but also in the wider context of comparisions with the English and New Zealand authorities, and finally against the author's own vision of future directions in the law of professional negligence.

- M. Greville

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- WEBB P. R. H. Family Law 1986 Style Legal Research Foundation Inc, Auckland. 1986. 182 pp. Price \$20.00.