

Chapters Eleven to Seventeen respectively deal with the following criminal offences: assault and abortion, manslaughter and murder, sexual offences, drug offences, traffic offences, stealing and deception. Each chapter provides the reader with the meanings of words used in their legal context, defences unique to particular crimes and the specific requisite mental and external elements of each offence.

The book is well researched in that it contains either extracts or discussion of all salient cases in criminal law as are applicable in Tasmania. The text does not cover all crimes in the Code or other legislation applicable in Tasmania, but instead concentrates on the more common and/or complex areas of law. It is clearly written and the balance between outline and detail has been well handled making it user-friendly. As such the book will be a very useful item in the study and practice of criminal law in Tasmania.

*Sam Magee**

Corporations Law: LBC Nutshell Series

By Christopher Bevan

Third Edition, Law Book Company, 1995, pp xi, 123

This publication is a compact book slightly larger than your back pocket, intended, one presumes, as a brief overview of Corporations Law. There are 18 chapters, each dealing with a specific area of the law, ensuring the book touches on most issues expected in a University law course. A pocket-size book of this nature should be concise yet still cover the major issues and cases, be easy to read, and importantly, provide references for further reading.

A typical chapter begins with an immediate point of law, followed by an explanation of the problems particular to the topic at hand. If the reader has some knowledge of Corporations Law it is very easy to follow, but like many 'texts' on this topic, the author assumes the reader has a background in company structure and already understands corporate language.

The case law is not well cited, only providing judgment year and whether it was a British or Australian case. For the law student this is a little annoying. The book relies heavily on British decisions, and has

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not mentioned many leading Australian decisions such as *Pioneer Concrete Services Ltd v Yelnah Pty Ltd*²² and *Briggs v James Hardie & Co Pty Ltd*²³ in reference to 'lifting the corporate veil', and *Bank of New Zealand v Fiberni*²⁴ when dealing with contractual liability.

The book leaves few divisions of the law untouched, but its brevity may be a limitation if the student wishes to use it as a primary resource for assignments or examinations. I recommend the conscientious law student invest in a more comprehensive text, as the deficiencies of the 'Nutshell' outweigh its usefulness for study purposes.

*Mal Upston**

Drafting

By Ros Macdonald and Denise McGill

Butterworths, 1997, pp xxix, 312 with index, \$48 (pbk)

Drafting is a welcome textbook for students and teachers studying modern legal drafting. Practitioners will also find it an extremely useful reference guide in their practice as it covers fundamental issues and principles relevant to some of the most common types of transactions in legal practice in all Australian jurisdictions. With its simple structure, concise style and expression, clear identification of relevant issues and principles, and numerous examples, this book is very well suited for the purpose for which it purports to be written. As the first textbook that summarises general principles of modern legal drafting and their practical application to specific transactions in Australia, it fills an important gap in Australian legal-education literature, complementing general texts on drafting,²⁵ and specialised texts in particular fields.²⁶

22 (1987) 5 ACLC 467.

23 (1989) 7 ACLC 841.

24 (1994) 12 ACLC 48; (1994) 12 ACLC 232.

* Law student and tutor, University of Tasmania.

25 See for example JK Aitken, *Piess: The Elements of Drafting* (9th ed, Law Book Co, 1995).

26 See for example WD Duncan, *Commercial Leases* (2nd ed, Law Book Co, 1993); AG Lang et al, *Commercial Leases* (LAAMS Publications, 1993); JK de Groot and KF Maxwell, *Legal Letter Writing* (Blackstone Press, 1994).

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