Commercial Law

Samantha Traves
4TH EDITION
LEXISNEXIS
RRP $125

The 4th Edition of Commercial Law provides a useful summary on a broad range of commercial law subjects including personal property, agency, sale of goods, consumer transactions, and guarantees (and more). The text is targeted at law students, however it also serves as a handy reference tool for practitioners in these fields.

The Tables of Cases and Statutes makes the text invaluable as a quick reference guide in these broad range of commercial law topics. The author, an experienced commercial law lecturer and practitioner, clearly and concisely explains complex legal concepts using case examples which are relevant and up to date.

In particular, the updated chapters relating to the Australian Consumer Law and the personal properties securities legislation are very useful, with a range of more updated case references and a detailed analysis on the effects and implications of the legislation.

The nature of the topic incorporates a wide breadth of subject areas, however the author manages to present them in a very well-structured way, making it easy to digest or refer to for a refresher.

In my opinion, the book is not only handy for law students in undertaking research for assignments but similarly for practitioners in drafting opinions and/or submissions in their everyday practice. The text could be complemented by a more detailed text in a specific area (this is no fault of the text itself, rather the range of subjects covered is far too broad to provide an in depth coverage of each specific area of law).

Most importantly, the text goes beyond coverage of traditional legal areas into other areas relevant to everyday commercial practice.

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Understanding Business Law

S Graw, D Parker, K Whitford, E Sangkuhl and C Do
8TH EDITION
LEXISNEXIS
RRP $155

Business law (as its name suggests) encompasses all of the laws that govern the formation and operation of a business. As business law deals with issues of both private and public law it can be difficult for students and junior lawyers to appreciate just how many types of laws interact and apply to businesses, let alone advise on.

Thankfully, Understanding Business Law (now in its 8th Edition) continues to be an engaging text for readers wanting a comprehensive resource for just such an occasion.

The text starts with a very general overview of 'What is the Law' in an Australian context, which is interesting and useful for students but information which a practitioner should already know. The authors then dedicate significantly more attention to analysing the types of law that do apply with case examples to illustrate in a practical manner how the legal principals are applied.

The authors explore a diverse range of subjects including business structuring, contracts, consumer law, employment, intellectual property law, financial transactions, civil wrongs and debt recovery. It also delves into (albeit briefly) business ethics, with the likes of Alan Bond, Christopher Skase and James Hardie as examples, and corporate social responsibility, an interesting topic and certainly one becoming more popular amongst business concerned about their social footprint.

The text is visually appealing; the authors have formatted and colour coded introductions, case examples, legal analysis and summaries differently and includes helpful diagrams and tables to break up the 940 (approx.) pages of text. While one could be indifferent to this, it is surprising how much easier and engaging it is to read a text so well formatted.

The text is certainly not 'light' summer reading but since obtaining a copy I have used it frequently for a number of matters as useful reference material. I would certainly recommend this useful tome to any junior lawyer wanting an overview of what can be an extremely broad area of the law, and for any other legal practitioner as good reference material.

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