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Book Review: Selected Cases Illustrating the Law of Contracts

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private side of the special phase of substantive law, as distinguished from the general phase of substantive law? The author's suggestion of contract law as falling into occupational and non-occupational is welcome; on the other hand, the further subdivision of occupational into principal and accessory seems to promise nothing. The book is marred by the intrusion of Tennysonian sentiments and not particularly illuminating second-hand historical material into space that might have been given to working out the classification into more concrete and detailed form.

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Karl N. Llewellyn


As the name shows, this is a volume of illustrative cases. There is no attempt to show the development of the law historically. Every case is preceded by a statement of the general rule that it is supposed to illustrate.

The chapter headings correspond with those in Anson on Contract. In addition there are chapters on Agency, 70 pp.; Bills and Notes, 80 pp.; Sales, 120 pp.; Carriers, 60 pp.; Insurance, 35 pp.; and Suretyship, 20 pp.

It will be apparent to any student of American casebooks that the service rendered by this book is comparatively limited. It is a reasonable representation of the present case law of a single jurisdiction. As a basis for forecasting how the courts of that jurisdiction will decide in the future, it is not as good as are the American casebooks. It forms, however, a convenient collection of modern English cases, all of which are familiar to American students. Only one case is from the American reports. The volume opens with Fitch v. Snedaker.

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During the last forty years the lawyers of the United States have become increasingly conscious of the failure of many of their members so to act as to reflect credit on the profession. Impelled by the consciousness of this situation and of the evil results to the profession at large and to the public, lawyers, as individuals and in groups, have sought to set the house of the profession in order. They have secured the adoption of codes of legal ethics, beginning with the action of the Alabama Bar Association in 1881 and leading to the adoption of a code by the American Bar Association in 1908. They have organized or energized Grievance Committees which have brought about the discipline of many lawyers. They have organized clinics for the study of the ethical problems which confront lawyers. The best known of these clinics is that of the New York County Lawyers' Association.

As testified by Mr. Charles A. Boston, who writes an introduction to this book, Mr. Jessup has rendered valiant service in all these activities in his own State of New York and in the American Bar Association. Mr. Jessup has rendered the profession a real service in crystallizing the result of his long experience and careful study and in making the result available for students, lawyers and judges. Included in the book is a wealth of material for the student. Here, he will find the canons of ethics of the American Bar Association, the canons of judicial ethics of the American Bar Association, Sir Matthew Hale's Rules for the Guidance of Judicial Officers, Hoffman's Resolutions in regard to Professional Deporment, the