

# Book Notices

**BIEBER'S CURRENT AMERICAN LEGAL CITATIONS.** By Mary Miles Prince. 2d ed. Buffalo, N.Y.: William S. Hein & Co., 1986. Pp. 405. \$10. This self-styled "companion to the *Bluebook*" helps legal writers cite major law reviews, statutes, court cases, and even treatises. Want to know how to cite what is commonly referred to as "Wright & Miller"? Look up "Wright," and you are referred to "Federal Practice and Procedure," where three variations are given, to show (1) how to cite just a section, (2) how to cite a section and specific page numbers, and (3) how to cite a supplement. At first this book struck us as wholly unnecessary, but a year of constant recourse to it has proved that the book is decidedly useful.

**BRIEF WRITING AND ORAL ARGUMENT.** By Edward D. Re. 6th ed. Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Oceana Publications, Inc., 1987. Pp. 475. \$25. The appellate lawyer's Bible is as handsome as ever in this sixth edition. Appendixes make up half of the book—usually a sign of basic organizational flaws—but one appreciates the convenience of having the various appellate rules and forms collected in one place. The book contains a wealth of information. Litigators everywhere could learn from it.

**DRAFTING LEGAL DOCUMENTS.** By Barbara Child. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co., 1988. Pp. 286. \$18.95. This book is one of the best works available for teaching a course on legal drafting. The materials quoted on style and the use of plain English are well chosen, though a few are out of date. The abundance of problems, illustrations, and forms makes the book easy to use. Highly recommended.

**INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL WRITING AND ORAL ADVOCACY.** By Karen K. Porter, Nancy L. Schultz, Lauren Scott, Louis J. Sirico, and Annemiek N. Young. N.Y.: Matthew Bender & Co., 1989. Pp. 177 plus voluminous appendixes. \$23. Useful to the neophyte, this book has little to say to those who have completed a year of law school. One

worries again and again about the authors' illustrative revisions of bad prose; here, for example, is the recommended revision of an overlong sentence.

Appellant did not respond to the motion. This failure goes to the heart of the suit. Allowing litigants to ignore proper procedure can paralyze the judicial process. A court will be unable to proceed. It will not know whether a litigant plans to respond to a pleading.

Good lawyers do not write or speak that way; one expects something more from a book "about writing and speaking like a lawyer." Like most other legal-writing textbooks, this one tries to be all things to all readers; and like most others, it fails to do anything splendidly.

LEGAL REASONING AND LEGAL WRITING: STRUCTURE, STRATEGY, AND STYLE. By Richard K. Neumann, Jr. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1990. Pp. 482. \$18.95. This book is a newcomer to the increasingly crowded field of legal-writing books for law students. While the preface states that the text is "both for first-year legal writing and moot court programs and for second-year appellate advocacy courses and competitions," its natural niche appears to be the first-year courses. Following the example of works such as Dernbach and Singleton's *Introduction to Legal Writing*, Neumann provides first-year students with a detailed introduction to legal analysis and argumentation, and to some forms of legal writing. Unlike most of the books intended for first-year courses, Neumann's has three solid chapters that address common problems of the word, the sentence, the paragraph, and the document. The book handily includes a checklist of writing questions inside the front cover.

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LEGAL WRITING, ANALYSIS, AND ORAL ARGUMENT. By Larry Teply. St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., 1989. Pp. 406 plus appendixes. \$19.95. In scope, this book is representative of books designed to teach a number of skills to first-year writing students. In ten chapters and five appendixes, Teply covers case briefing, note taking, citation formats, legal analysis, statutory interpretation, legal memoranda and appellate briefs, oral arguments, spelling, punctuation, and writing. As with many books that attempt to treat a broad range of topics, the book's quality is uneven. Unfortunately, the weakest sections are those on writing. The book is replete with usage, grammatical, and typographical errors (for example, *who's* for *whose*, *proscribed* for *prescribed*). Sadly, its most outstanding lesson is the value of careful proofreading.

THE LITERATE LAWYER. By Robert B. Smith. Austin: Butterworth, 1986. Pp. 260. \$ 20. This is one of the better coursebooks on legal writing, though it has not enjoyed widespread adoption. Like most other coursebooks, its coverage is very broad, but the emphasis is decidedly on writing. And it is a readable book—ironically, a hit-or-miss quality nowadays in legal-writing texts. It contains a wealth of examples, from a full-length legal memorandum to a full-length brief, from sample letters to copious quotations that illustrate the book's sound advice on good writing.

THE STATE OF THE LANGUAGE. By Christopher Ricks and Leonard Michaels, eds. Berkeley: University of California, 1990. Pp. 531. \$25. This book is the second such anthology compiled by Ricks and Michaels. All but a few of the essays and poems appear here for the first time. Several of them, such as the two on legal language, by Bryan A. Garner and Martha Minow, will appeal directly to lawyers. But much else will inform and entertain in this sparkling collection, in-

cluding the essays on AIDS keywords; the lingo of Wall Street; public eloquence; and editing and its discontents.

WRITING AND ANALYSIS IN THE LAW. By Helene S. Shapo, Marilyn R. Walter, and Elizabeth Fajans. Westbury, N.Y.: Foundation Press, Inc., 1989. Pp. 279. \$15.50. This book is intended to be a complete legal-analysis and writing text for first-year law students. It covers most of the topics covered in first-year legal-writing courses, including an interesting chapter on legal research. While much of the book is devoted to matters of legal authority and how to understand and use it, the authors skillfully discuss the rudiments of legal writing. In addition to the standard chapters on legal memoranda and appellate briefs, there are helpful chapters on organization and paragraphing.