

South Carolina Law Review

Volume 13 | Issue 1

Article 15

Fall 1960

Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

(1960) "Book Reviews," *South Carolina Law Review*. Vol. 13 : Iss. 1 , Article 15.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/sclr/vol13/iss1/15>

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BOOK REVIEW

THE LAW OF CONFLICT OF LAWS by Robert A. Leflar, Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1959, Pp. 1xxii, 467. \$13.50.

It is indeed impossible for a reviewer to give a fair appraisal of a book without considering the purpose that the author had in mind when he wrote it. Dean Leflar indicates in his preface that this work is intended to be a text on Conflicts. While he states that he has dealt with all of the recent Arkansas cases, "they are treated as part of an American law of Conflict of Laws and the effort of the work is to give a fair picture of the American law as it typically operates in any one of the states today." (p.v.) Therefore the principal difference between this book and Dean Leflar's earlier work is that the present text is more of a general treatise on conflicts, while his earlier book dealt almost exclusively with Arkansas law.

If one is looking for an exhaustive treatise that analyzes, or enumerates, all of the recent cases in Conflicts, he will be disappointed with this book. Likewise, the scholar who is interested in new approaches, or analytical analyses of the seemingly innumerable and insolvable problems in this field, will not find them in Dean Leflar's work. However, the student or practitioner who is in need of a short but excellent text can find no better.

Those who are familiar with Dean Leflar or his numerous writings will readily attest to the fact that he is and has been one of the most prominent scholars in this rapidly growing field. They will also subscribe to the fact that his contributions have contained some of the most articulate, well-thought-out, and practical aids to be found. No doubt Dean Leflar's wide experience as a teacher, Dean, Judge, and writer have enabled him to temper the scholarly outlook with practicality.

In this work is found a brief treatment of the sundry topics that are traditionally thought of as being a part of Conflict of Laws. The first chapter is an introduction in which the author more or less gives a survey of the general field, including its history, theories, constitutional limitations, etc.

While it is true that some of the issues discussed in this chapter are given fuller treatment in subsequent chapters, it is too brief for an introduction — especially as to those matters not discussed elsewhere. As a matter of fact, over five times as much space is devoted to the table of cases as is given to the discussion of the introductory topics.

The chapters that follow are on specific areas such as domicile, jurisdiction, characterization, procedure, judgments, corporations, criminal law, torts, contracts, workmen's compensation, property, domestic relations, succession, trusts, and state taxation. One will not only find all of the Arkansas cases mentioned or cited, but cases by the United States Supreme Court and other courts as well. The discussion of some problems and cases will be regarded by a few as rather conceptualistic — or Bealean, to be more accurate. This is not surprising in view of the fact that Dean Leflar studied with Beale. Nor is this necessarily a defect. After all, most of our courts still handle conflicts problems in this manner. Moreover, even those courts which have indicated their acceptance of new approaches still try to fit the problems and their decisions into the traditional legal framework. But the author has not ignored the demands of the realists. He has dealt analytically with many topics and where appropriate he has cited current law review articles in which one can find further analytical treatments.

This is indeed a fine text. It reflects Dean Leflar's mastery of the subject and his ability to explain a difficult subject in an understandable and concise manner. The reviewer is pleased to add his recommendation to the plaudits already given the book.¹

JAMES D. SUMNER, JR.*

1. 12 ALA. L. REV. 429 (1960); 14 ARK. L. REV. 183 (1960) ("... Leflar is a thoroughly practical person."); 45 CORNELL L.Q. 611 (1960); 6 HOW. L. REV. 239 (1960); 27 U. KAN. CITY L. REV. 240 (1959); 35 N.Y.U. L. REV. 1105 (1960) ("... the book is particularly useful to students and to practitioners..."); 12 STAN. L. REV. 707 (1960); 27 TENN. L. REV. 642 (1960) ("It is a basic text for lawyers and judges, though with the approach and treatment of a treatise."); 34 TUL. L. REV. 430 (1960) ("... it is destined to become one of the standard works on one of the most difficult and important of legal subjects, the Conflict of Laws."); 13 WASH. U.L.Q. 312 (1960) ("... it is a useful addition to the literature in this field."); 2 W. & M. L. REV. 532 (1960) ("... lucid exposition of the conflicts of laws.").

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