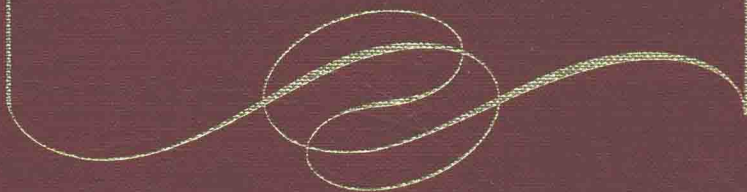


# Recommended Law Books

## Second Edition

*Committee on Business Law Libraries  
Section of Corporation,  
Banking and Business Law  
American Bar Association*



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EDITED BY JAMES A. McDERMOTT

Committee on Business Law Libraries  
Section of Corporation, Banking and Business Law

American Bar Association  
Chicago Illinois

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## FOREWORD

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best dividends."

—Benjamin Franklin

DR. FRANKLIN'S WISDOM is beyond dispute. However, it raises questions for the lawyer or librarian charged with the responsibility of establishing or maintaining a law library—how much should be invested, how are the best works to be found from the profusion of legal publications?

The Committee on Business Law Libraries of the American Bar Association, Section of Corporation, Banking and Business Law first attempted to answer these questions in 1969 with the publication of *Recommended Law Books* under the editorship of Richard Sloane. The first edition was one of the most successful publications ever produced by the Section and quickly gained recognition as the prime reference source for lawyers and librarians desirous of acquiring and maintaining quality and useful libraries within budget limitations.

Seventeen years later the tremendous expansion of legal materials in traditional areas and the introduction of a stream of publications in new fields of law necessitated a Second Edition. A comparison of the First and Second Editions of *Recommended Law Books* discloses some name changes and consolidation of subjects and many new subjects including commodities regulation, computer law, consumer law, environmental law, franchising, health care, mergers, acquisitions and take-overs, and professional responsibility.

The increase in the number of law books has brought with it a higher percentage of texts and practice manuals dealing with narrow legal subjects, often at high price and with limited shelf life. The prudent librarian will hesitate to invest in such enticing publications without assurance of high quality and that the service or textbook will be maintained. The Second Edition will be of great value to the librarian in making the right acquisition decision in this large and sometimes confusing marketplace.

James A. McDermott was Chairman of the Business Law Libraries Committee when he asked for and received Section approval to begin work on the Second Edition. He became the project editor and since

he was so immersed in the work, continued as editor after the completion of his term as Committee Chairman and has now completed this most arduous task. For the last several years Jim has taken a vast amount of time from his busy law practice in Indianapolis to plan, collect, classify, and evaluate the contents of the Second Edition. As explained in the Introduction, his methodology shows the care and cross-checking which he employed in preparing and editing the manuscript.

To James A. McDermott who gave most generously of his time and with imagination, leadership and skill, produced an outstanding contribution to the legal profession, and to those whom he mentions in his Acknowledgement, go the thanks of the Officers, Council members, and members of the Section. I am sure that users of the Second Edition will echo their appreciation for the many benefits derived from this scholarly work.

Frank R. Morris, Jr.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF people have helped in the preparation of this book.

In terms of time and effort—if not indispensability—four of my colleagues at Barnes & Thornburg made substantial contributions. My secretaries, Bernadette Londini and Julie LaPierre, labored at length and with almost unimaginable patience in collating thousands of recommendations and reducing this text to typewritten form. Steven Ries, a research librarian, undertook quickly and efficiently extensive bibliographical research and provided practical advice from the standpoint of a working librarian. Debra Burns, a paralegal and now law student, was responsible for locating copies of most of the recommended texts for my consideration, seeking out book reviews and proofreading and correcting the text of this book; the extent of her efforts have been such that she ought to be regarded as a co-editor.

I had extensive critical help and encouragement from Richard Sloane, the editor of the original 1969 edition of this work, from Deborah Ackerman, my successor as Chairman of the Business Law Libraries Committee of the Section of Corporation, Banking and Business Law, and from Charles F. Osborn, Chairman of the Section's Committee on Publications. Each played an important role in defining this book's direction and focus and in filling voids remaining after my survey process had been completed.

Hope M. Bulger, Staff Director, Publications, Planning and Marketing, of the American Bar Association, has overseen the transition of this work from typewritten to printed form. With her assistance, I was able to enlist the aid of librarians at the American Bar Foundation in obtaining and checking a great deal of the bibliographical data material included herein.

Mead Data Central contributed LEXIS time without charge enabling me to survey frequencies of citation. And I have relied extensively on Arlene L. Eis' *LEGAL LOOSELEAFS IN PRINT* (1985) in compiling bibliographical data on looseleaf services; this publication is distinguished by its excellence in a field otherwise characterized by mediocrity.

Finally, the contributions of the hundreds of practicing lawyers, law office librarians and law professors who responded to my entreaties

should not go unrecognized. It is they, in the truest sense, who have made the recommendations that follow.

J.A.M.

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Recommended Law Books  
Second Edition



## INTRODUCTION

THIS IS A BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR practicing lawyers. It was prepared with their special needs in mind and no others. Its primary purpose is to identify works having some immediate utility in solving problems encountered by working lawyers encountering areas of law with which they are less than totally familiar. The recommendations here made will be obvious to those already familiar with those areas of the law—largely because it is they who have made the recommendations.

The secondary purpose of this book is to serve as a guide to setting up a modest library for a small group of practicing lawyers. Larger organizations will probably have the aid of one or more law librarians, to whom the contents of this volume will also be obvious—again because their recommendations have in substantial measure determined those contents. However, smaller groups of lawyers seldom have the luxury of a librarian and thus have need for suggestions such as those that follow. It is apparent that the first edition of this work—published some 16 years ago—was used extensively as a guide for establishing smaller libraries. Indeed, it was the continuing flow of inquiries from lawyers confronted with the task of organizing small, modest-budget libraries that was the impetus for this project.

The recommendations contained in this book have several sources. The most important sources—practicing lawyers and law office librarians—have already been mentioned. In approaching this task, I mailed requests to several hundred practicing lawyers I was able to identify as having expertise in particular areas of the law; typically, these were chairmen and chairwomen of substantive law committees of various sections of the American Bar Association and committee members to which many of them referred me. I also sought recommendations from a group of 40 or so practitioners in small organizations (10 or fewer lawyers) who responded to a request I published in *The Business Law Memo*. These lawyers' responses, together with answers to a questionnaire I circulated among about 125 law librarians in the largest law firms and corporate law departments in this country, were my primary source material.

I also sought recommendations from more than several hundred law school professors in their areas of interest. I referred to the ex-

tensive literature of book reviews to confirm (and in some instances reject) choices I had otherwise made. In a number of instances, I used LEXIS to compare relative frequencies of citation of competitive works. And because it has had a significant effect on some decisions, I cannot fail to mention that I have relied on my own predilections from time to time.

In most subject matters, I have attempted to define a collection of books that may have some utility. Where I was able to identify a particular work as the recognized "core" text of a specialist's collection on a given subject, I have indicated it by means of a double asterisk (\*\*). Where there was a less expensive work giving a good overview of the subject—one that might lend itself to being an initial purchase for a small library with a modest budget—I have indicated it by a single asterisk (\*). I have then tried to fill out the recommendations with other well regarded treatises, particularly those with somewhat narrower focuses. At times, I have listed several texts with overlapping coverage, particularly where several excellent texts have been written on a topic. In circumstances where there are specialized reporter services relating to a subject, I have noted them, notably when they might serve as substitutes for more extensive (and therefore more expensive) reporter systems.

The works recommended in this book are *not* of equal quality. That is a consequence of the fact that there are a number of subjects with respect to which genuinely first class thinking and writing have not yet occurred. In those instances, I have tried to ascertain the best available books, recognizing that the resulting recommendations are less than ideal. I have made an effort to point out some weaknesses through the commentary appended to the recommendations.

I have endeavored to include current pricing information for all recommended works. Prices are generally current to early to mid-1985, but should be used principally as a measure of *relative* rather than *absolute* cost. Prices of law books have increased rapidly over the past five years, sometimes as much as a threefold increase. To the extent this trend continues, the price information which follows will quickly become obsolete. I am reasonably confident of the accuracy of current prices given for looseleaf services because these are largely based on information given in Arlene L. Eis' *LEGAL LOOSELEAFS IN PRINT* (1985) (which is the *only* acceptable bibliography of its type I have encountered). Current pricing of hardbound materials is more questionable.

I have also attempted to provide some indication of currency, frequency and cost of supplementation. For the same reason given above, I am fairly comfortable with data pertaining to looseleaf services

but less so insofar as other materials are concerned. Please note that the annual supplementation expenses of a number of services approach the initial acquisition costs.

To the extent that I have departed from established norms in preparing this bibliography, I freely confess to being an amateur in the discipline of library science. So, too, are they for whom this book is written.

James A. McDermott





*PART I*

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS ON  
PARTICULAR SUBJECTS