

THE ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM

Seventh Edition
by
A. K. R. Kiralfy



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THE ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM

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PREFACE

There have been some unusually important changes since the last edition in the field covered by this book. Service of the writ by post has been made general in civil actions and the idea of a notional appearance by the defendant finally eliminated. Here the policy of assimilating High Court and County Court procedure is dominant. The law of contempt of court has been modified in a way which may impose further restrictions on publicity of trial. The role of the Director of Public Prosecutions has also been clarified and the "vetting" of juries formalised. Still newer types of sentence for juvenile offenders are being introduced in an effort to cope with the evergreen problem of the high proportion of crimes committed by the young.

The introduction of the *Mareva* injunction confers on plaintiffs a type of protection long familiar on the Continent of Europe, the securing of judgments against evasion. Charging orders on land add still another to the growing list of forms of enforcement of civil judgments. The House of Lords has explained, but hardly clarified, the question of how far confidential documents are protected from disclosure. The implications of membership of the European Community have been worked out more fully.

There has been a welter of consolidating statutes, but there is much new law as well in the Criminal Justice Act 1982 and some in the Supreme Court Act of 1981. The Arbitration Act 1979 has been taken into account and the Forfeiture Act 1982.

If the current Police and Criminal Evidence Bill passes unchanged it will extend the powers of arrest by police and private individuals and computer print-outs will be admitted in evidence. Other bills may change the distribution of divorce jurisdiction.

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December 1, 1983

ALBERT KIRALFY

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