

Fifth Edition

The Law of Meetings

Their Conduct and Procedure



Sir Sebag Shaw
Judge Dennis Smith

Macdonald & Evans

THE LAW OF MEETINGS

THEIR CONDUCT AND PROCEDURE

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR SEBAG SHAW

(a Lord Justice of Appeal)

and

HIS HONOUR

JUDGE E. DENNIS SMITH

(Circuit Judge, South Eastern Circuit)

FIFTH EDITION



MACDONALD AND EVANS

MACDONALD & EVANS LTD.
Estover, Plymouth PL6 7PZ

First published 1947
Second Edition (Revised and Enlarged) 1950
Third Edition 1956
Reprinted (with amendments) 1965
Reprinted 1967
Fourth Edition 1974
Reprinted 1976
Fifth Edition 1979

©
MACDONALD & EVANS LIMITED
1979

ISBN: 0 7121 1248 0

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Filmset in 'Monophoto' Baskerville 11 on 12 pt by
Richard Clay (The Chaucer Press), Ltd, Bungay, Suffolk
and printed in Great Britain by
Fletcher & Son Ltd, Norwich

THE LAW OF MEETINGS

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

The object of this book is to provide a comprehensive survey of the rules, legal and conventional, which regulate the constitution and conduct of meetings. An effort has been made to present the subject-matter in its logical development from general custom and common law to the special and often intricate regulations which are peculiar to particular bodies. Where the source of a rule or principle is not manifest, its *raison d'être* has been indicated, i.e. expediency, equity and so on.

This book should thus be of value not only as a work of reference but also to the layman, and especially as a textbook for the student whose needs have been kept always in mind.

Part I reviews the law of meetings from its external aspect, and deals with such matters as the so-called rights of meeting and right of free speech. In Part II the rules which govern meetings in general from their internal aspect are considered, as for example voting rights, resolutions, amendments and the like. Part III is concerned with the special rules affecting companies under the Companies Act 1929, while Part IV deals similarly with local authorities. In Part V the meetings of miscellaneous bodies are investigated including, in particular, those of statutory companies.

Acknowledgment is due to R. Hendry White, Esq., Barrister, for his assistance in the preparation of the Tables of Cases and Statutes and the Index.

SEBAG SHAW

London,
August 1947

PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION

This edition has been brought up to date in the light of changes and developments in the law, in particular by legislation, including the Companies Act 1976, the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Several cases in recent years have involved the concept of "natural justice" in relation to the exercise of judicial or quasi-judicial functions. A short chapter has, accordingly, been added on this important and complex topic. Acknowledgment is due to J. E. Pugh-Smith, Esq., Barrister, who contributed this chapter.

SEBAG SHAW
E. DENNIS SMITH

London,
February 1979

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