

Constitutional and Administrative Law

I.N. Stevens



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Constitutional and Administrative Law

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Preface

There are those by whom Constitutional and Administrative Law is considered to be a field scarcely worth study by lawyers: fortunately, they appear to be a dying race. A knowledge and understanding of the legal principles relating to our system of government is nowadays regarded as essential for the lawyer: the amount of case law on the subject is growing almost daily, and aspects of administrative law, in particular, are becoming increasingly areas of specialized practice.

Whilst this book is not aimed solely at the law student, it is the needs of law students which I have had in mind primarily. The persistence of the notion that constitutional and administrative law is not really "law" at all is cold comfort for him, for study it he must, usually in his first year at university or college. As far as is possible, therefore, I have attempted to deal with the subject in the normal way, characteristic of law books. The discussion of principles is, wherever possible, closely related to judicial decisions: this is especially so in the case of administrative law, and rather less (but inevitably) so in the case of constitutional law.

The ground covered is typical of the sort of lecture course the law student will be required to attend, and upon which, in fact, the book is roughly based. The book will serve as an introduction to the subject, as well as a concise reference source. As such, it is suitable for university, polytechnic and other students preparing for examinations in politics or government, as well as in law.

For enabling me to write this book I would like to thank my friends and colleagues at Buckingham, particularly Professor P. S. James, Claire Scardifield, Julie Cakebread and Chris Evans, as well as the publishers. Special thanks, however, are due to John Price, who read and commented on the script, to Professor John Griffith, for much encouragement (and a few ideas too!) and to my wife.

April 1982

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