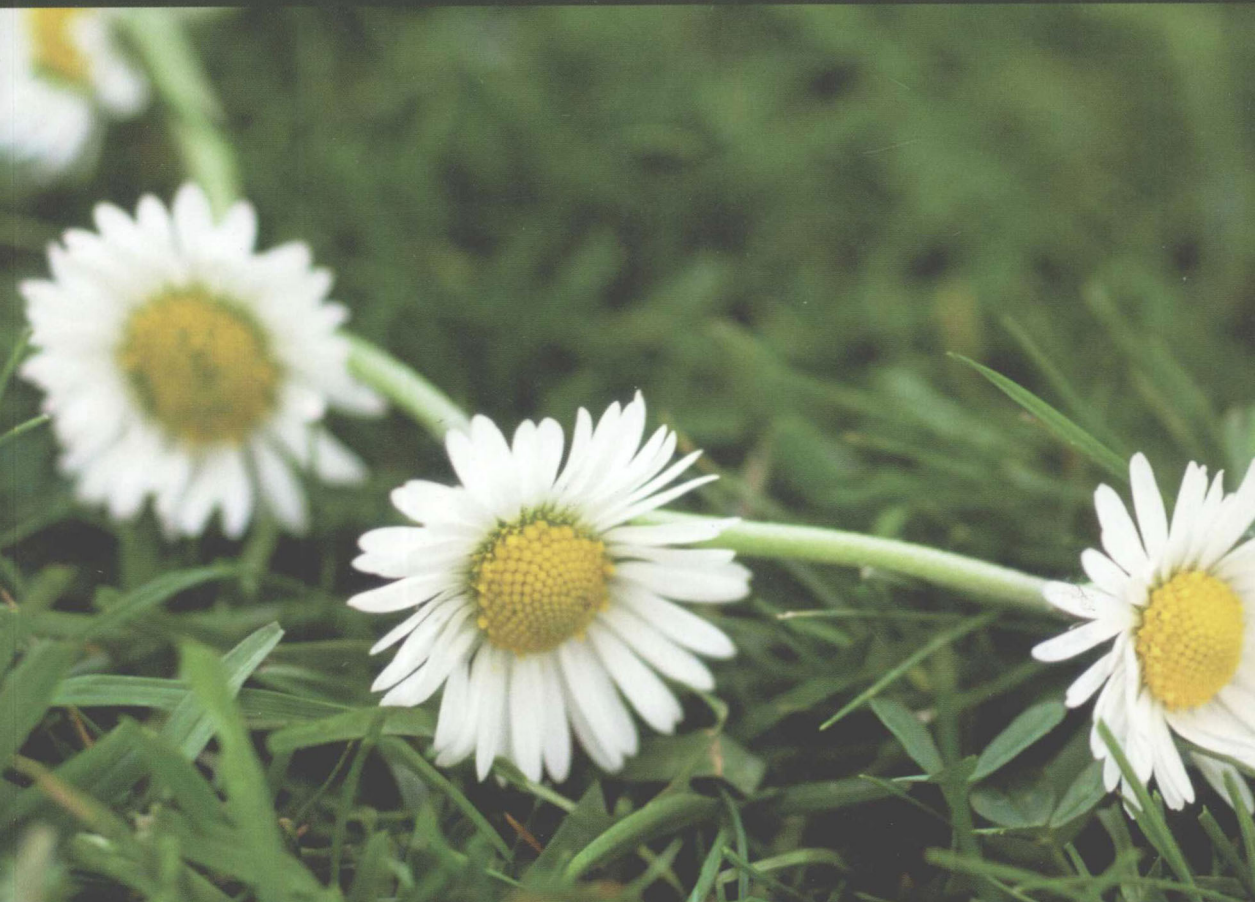


TEXT, CASES AND MATERIALS ON CONTRACT LAW

SECOND EDITION



RICHARD STONE, JAMES DEVENNEY
AND RALPH CUNNINGTON

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**Richard Stone, James Devenney
and Ralph Cunnington**



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Preface

Contract law often elicits a mixed response from students. Some find it boring; others struggle with its complexity; still others find it challenging and rewarding. Our intention is to enable our readers to experience the satisfaction of falling into that latter category.

The book has two main aims. First, and foremost, the book seeks to provide a clear, accessible, and yet detailed exposition of English contract law. Complex ideas are explained and hard cases are unpacked. Secondly, it aims to encourage readers to adopt a critical approach to understanding the law. The book contains numerous academic articles, extracts from books and law reform papers. It is hoped that these will challenge the more discerning readers to question the current conceptions of the law and to develop new ideas and lines of argument for themselves.

The book is composed of approximately one-quarter authors' commentaries and three-quarters cases and materials. The commentary is sufficiently detailed to enable the reader to dip in and out of the cases and materials. It is hoped that the integration of these primary and secondary sources will help to deepen the reader's understanding of the law. We have aimed to keep the extracts from judgments as short as possible. On occasion, however, large extracts have been included in the belief that these provide the best exposition of the current law. The book is suitable for use alongside *The Modern Law of Contract*, 9th edn, 2011. Structurally the books are quite similar, being designed to supplement one another, although either book can be used independently.

The authors would like to thank everyone who assisted with the preparation of this text. In particular, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our friend Ralph Cunnington who was unable to be involved with the production of this edition but whose work is still very deeply embedded in this book. We are also indebted to our students at the University of Durham and the University of Lincoln who have provided us with numerous opportunities to further develop our understanding of, and ability to explain, the complexities of contract law. Your thoughtful questions and puzzled looks were not in vain. Special thanks must go to Routledge, and in particular Lloyd Langman and Fiona Kinnear, for all their patience, encouragement and assistance in the preparation of this book. Most of all we would like to thank our wives and the rest of our families who have been a constant support during the writing process.

The law is stated, as far as possible, as it stood on 1 September 2010.

Richard Stone Elston, Newark
James Devenney, Durham

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