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Book Review of Patent Law Index

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Indexes

545. **Patent Law Index.** 1997 ed. By Christopher M. Pickett. Washington, D.C., BNA Books, 1997. 503p. \$75.00pa. ISBN 1-57018-033-4. ISSN 1092-6828.

Pickett's index is designed to help patent lawyers and others who research patent law to locate quickly any potentially relevant information from federal statutes and regulations, from the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (MPEP), and from three leading treatises on patent law. In Pickett's own words, "My intent was to make the book compact enough to reside on the practitioner's desk where it may be regularly used to guide him or her to the most relevant points of interest. *Patent Law Index* is intended to give the user some definite starting points for research . . . [but] may also alert researchers to issues that they might otherwise have overlooked" (introduction). (Civil War buffs may want to call this "Pickett's Charge.")

The author created 135 topic headings—which in turn are broken down into nearly 3,000 subtopics—to provide citations to specific sections of the primary and secondary sources. He cross-indexes statutes and regulations almost exclusively from Title 35 of the *United States Code* and Title 37 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*; from the MPEP; and from Donald Chisum's *Patent Law Fundamentals*, Peter Rosenberg's *Patent Law Fundamentals*, and Robert Harmon's *Patents and the Federal Circuit*. (Those readers not familiar with these titles of the *U.S. Code* and CFR or with these authors probably do not need this book.) Pickett also includes three indexes by USC, CFR, and MPEP sections, as well as the table of contents from the six referenced sources.

At a modest cost (for law books), *Patent Law Index* probably will be a useful supplemental research aid for some researchers. How helpful will depend on one's own experience.—**James S. Heller**