

1993

## Book Review of The Government Contracts Reference Book

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### Repository Citation

Heller, James S., "Book Review of The Government Contracts Reference Book" (1993). *Library Staff Publications*. 54.  
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580. Nash, Ralph C., Jr., and Steven L. Schooner. **The Government Contracts Reference Book: A Comprehensive Guide to the Language of Procurement.** Washington, D.C., George Washington University, 1992. 445p. \$40.00pa. KF846.4.N37. 346.73'023'03. LC 92-8925. ISBN 0-935165-19-3.

Nash is the founder of the Government Contracts Program at the George Washington University National Law Center and a professor at the law school; Schooner is an attorney with the U.S. Justice Department. Together they have compiled a very helpful dictionary of public contracts law terminology. Although designed for attorneys, most definitions are written in language that can be understood by laypeople. In addition to defining more than 1,100 terms and phrases, the list of nearly 300 acronyms and abbreviations is particularly helpful because of the frequency with which short terms are used in the government contracts field.

The definitions typically range from 75 to 150 words in length, and most entries cite other documents (e.g., *Federal Acquisition Regulations*) as their source. Cross-references to terms found elsewhere in the book are common, and some entries make reference to the United States Code, court decisions, and Board of Contract Appeals Decisions, as well as to secondary sources such as dictionaries, journal articles, and treaties.

Although *Keyes Encyclopedic Dictionary of Contract and Procurement Law* by Noel Keyes (Oceana, 1980) is more comprehensive, its higher price may make it less attractive for many consumers. For the price, *The Government Contracts Reference Book* has to be considered a "Best Buy," and it is recommended for all law libraries and large academic and public libraries. —James S. Heller