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Book Review of Courtoom Handbook on Federal Evidence

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591. Goode, Steven, and Olin Guy Wellborn III. **Courtroom Handbook on Federal Evidence**. 1995 ed. St. Paul, Minn., West Publishing, 1995. 495p. index. \$31.00pa. ISBN 0-314-06129-0. ISSN 1080-9457.

Goode and Wellborn designed this handbook for attorneys to carry with them into the courtroom. The first half of the manual includes the text of the Federal Rules of Evidence, selected constitutional and statutory provisions, and other court rules that affect admissibility of evidence or relate to the evidentiary rules. The second half consists of the authors' commentary on each rule of evidence. Goode and Wellborn make reference to and cite significant court decisions interpreting the rules, and also include cross-references to related statutes and rules, and even some treatises.

The authors list 89 common objections an attorney is likely to make to introduction of certain types of evidence, as well as possible responses by the attorney attempting to introduce the evidence. They also provide a fairly thorough subject index, and tables that refer to the statutes, rules, and cases cited throughout the text.

The handbook is not designed to compete with law school hornbooks such as *McCormick on Evidence* (4th ed., West Publishing, 1991) or even Anderson Publishing's *Weissenberger's Federal Evidence* (1992), an excellent and inexpensive paperback that offers a more scholarly application and interpretation of the rules. However, the handbook offers more than pocket-sized guides such as *Federal Rules of Evidence with Objections* (NITA, 1994) or Myron H. Bright and Ronald L. Carlson's *Objections at Trial* (Butterworth, 1993). Attorneys will find *Courtroom Handbook on Federal Evidence* a handy, straightforward manual that will help them more readily negotiate the evidentiary rules.—**James S. Heller**