

Book Review of Civil Practice in Municipla and Country Courts

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and associates are in keeping with what is a growing trend towards boosting the values of our American heritage rather than degrading America's values.

While the theories of the author are frequently couched in such terms as to be difficult to comprehend, the theme of the book emphasizing the urgent need for thoughtful and scholarly research into a world public order, comes through clearly.

RONALD L. BUCKWALTER

CIVIL PRACTICE IN MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY COURTS

By JUDGE CALVIN W. BERRY. Charlottesville, Va.: The Michie Co., 1961. 328 pp. \$20.00.

PERHAPS the greatest transition in the legal world is that from the classroom to the courtroom. To a similar degree, problems arise to face the practicing attorney, whether of great or limited experience, when natural limitations of time make it impossible to adequately prepare for the range of various cases which are processed in the inferior tribunals of the state. To aid in spanning such formidable chasms, Judge Calvin W. Berry of the Municipal Court of Danville, has produced a new and unique quick-reference book which will prove to be a continuing asset to lawyers in Virginia.

Civil Practice in Municipal and County Courts is a needed and welcome arrival which should soon be in demand by attorneys throughout the state. Compiled from guiding notes accumulated by the Judge over a ten-year period while sitting on the Danville bench, the book reflects both the practicality and technicality within the procedural law. Further, such reflection could only be achieved by someone in the position of the author; certainly no more reliable evaluation is possible than by one who daily observes and corrects the procedure of the court room.

The book is thoroughly annotated and frequently calls on established authority other than that confined to a statement of Virginia law; cases from other jurisdictions, *Corpus Juris Secundum*, *American Law Reports*, and *American Jurisprudence* are often cited to fill in certain obvious vacuums in the applicable law of the local courts. These citations serve as guides to further expansive research where, by the very nature of this work, great depth is neither desirable or necessary.

Of extreme significance in a book of this type is the ability of the index to supply immediate and complete reference to the topic under consideration. A thorough job has been achieved by the staff at the Michie Company in accomplishing this important task, and as a result, adequate indexing quickly directs the attorney to vital and informative sections of the book. This quality of organization combines with the clarity and brevity of Judge Berry's expression to give a scanning, bird's-eye view of the law and the shifting, spontaneous problems of procedure faced by the attorney in the inferior courts of the state.

To the student and attorney alike, Judge Berry has made a substantial and practical contribution in this recent book which merits immediate and continuing recognition by the profession. The Judge has reached those persons for whose benefit the book was intended. The true caliber of this book may be appreciated when one realizes that it fully satisfies that difficult goal set by its author, *i.e.*, it is certain to "... prove to be useful and time-saving for those lawyers having frequent cases in inferior courts but who have little time to prepare for unexpected developments before coming to court." When someone of the professional standing of Judge Berry produces a practical and valuable book such as *Civil Practice in Municipal and County Courts*, the response of the bar should be both receptive and appreciative.

SHANNON T. MASON, JR.