Books Noted (v. 13, no. 2)

In March 1971, the first National Conference on the Judiciary convened in order to promote the reform of judicial administration in this country. To this end most of the nation’s leading jurists came together to present their ideas on various aspects of the problem. These addresses and papers have been compiled and edited by Professor William F. Swindler.

The keynote address, delivered by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, criticizes the administration of justice at the local, state, and federal levels on the ground that most criminal violators are not apprehended. Furthermore, for those few who are caught, there is an unconscionable delay between apprehension, trial, and the imposition of punishment. The Chief Justice suggests that enlightened reform requires that high priority be given to the management of judicial resources as opposed to substantive changes in the law. Specifically, he recommends the establishment of a National Center for State Courts which would collect, analyze, and publish information relevant to these problems.

The major part of the book contains papers which recommend specific programs for reform. These papers are divided into six topical areas. In the first, The Interrelationships in a Judicial System, Richard Valente examines the role of the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration in financing a comprehensive reform of criminal justice. Ernest Friesen recommends using specialized administrators in the court system to manage the various non-judicial functions of the courts.

In the second section, The Organization of a Judicial System, Chief Judge Pringle of Colorado notes the advantages of a unified judicial system and discusses the role of a state chief judge within such a system. Other papers describe the functions of court administrators and appellate courts in a unified system. The third topic area, The Organization of State Trial Courts, examines the merits of unification of trial jurisdictions, the duties of courts of limited and special jurisdiction, and the problem of part-time courts.

The fourth section discusses the effective use of modern technology in streamlining judicial procedures, while the remaining parts of the
This book contains many suggestions for innovative reforms and is a noteworthy addition to the rapidly-expanding literature of judicial administration.


In recent years the legal profession has become concerned with the efficient administration of justice. This book highlights the basic problem areas and suggests possible solutions to each. After treating the historical reasons which have caused oppressive bottlenecks in our legal system, the authors examine the natural obstacles, such as trial tactics and judicial tenure, which hinder the application of traditional business-management concepts to the judicial system.

A wide variety of ideas, centering around a total systems concept, are presented to overcome these difficulties. The cohesive force in such a system is a court executive. His duties would include assigning cases to judges having particular expertise in the area concerned and accumulating information which could be used to expedite dockets. The executive, by performing these administrative tasks, would free the judge for his primary role as a jurist.

Effective management will enable a court to extend itself into the community as a social force. The courts might conduct in-depth investigations of juvenile cases, supervise child support payments or study prison reforms. While emphasizing a team-management approach coupled with community involvement the authors have laid a sound foundation for understanding the problems facing our courts. This book is a convenient starting point for a study of court reform.


This volume represents the seventh work published by Hastings House which focuses upon problems in public communications. It contains the edited opinions of 52 key decisions handed down by the United States Supreme Court from the beginning of the Warren Years to the present. Also included are 15 selected reprints of important
articles from various journals of law and mass communications. In abridging the justices' opinions and journal articles, the author has eliminated footnotes, case citations, and various discussions in an attempt to portray only the essence of each opinion in order to emphasize its impact on the existing case law.

This summary work contains 43 major media decisions rendered since 1953 dealing with questions of obscenity, motion picture censorship, libel, right of privacy, trial by television, and the "Pentagon Papers" decision in 1971. Appendices include amendments to the United States Constitution, a glossary of legal terms, a table of cases, and a general index.

This book will provide those in the legal community with an interesting and concise review of developments in communications law during the past two decades. It will be helpful to those who wish to understand the complicated area of judicial protection and regulation of first amendment rights.


This book is a catalogue of civil liberties. It is written in clear, everyday language so that a quiet citizen defending his privacy or an activist planning a demonstration may look at this book in order to gain a rough familiarity with the relevant law. The reader is introduced to the law with a short history of the court system. The major part of the book discusses the preferred freedoms such as the right to free expression, freedom of association and assembly, and freedom of religion. The author also explains the meaning of due process and the legal procedures through which citizens may seek redress of their grievances.