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## Book Review

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AVIATION LAW: CASES, LAWS AND RELATED SOURCES\* by Paul B. Larsen, Joseph C. Sweeney, and John E. Gillick—Transnational Publishers, Inc., Ardsley, NY, 2006

*Bernard F. Diederich\*\**

**I**N *AVIATION LAW*, the authors, three experts in transportation law, provide the aviation law bar with a tool to make life a little easier and more pleasant. Starting with an overview of the evolution of the aviation industry, the authors cover both domestic and international law, making all the important stops at economic and safety regulation, crimes involving aircraft, carrier liabilities to passengers and shippers, ticketing, aircraft manufacturers' product liability, security, airport law, insurance, governmental immunity, aircraft ownership and financing, and labor relations. The reader, whether a first-year law student or salty senior partner, receives a good dose of not only black-letter law but also a listing of primary source materials and key case reviews and citations.

I have more than 35 years of aviation law experience and yet have already consulted the copy of *Aviation Law* in the Department of Transportation's law library several times to refresh my memory about the nuances of aviation law. You'll learn something from the book even if you think you know it all: for example, the incisive description of the recent changes in the Federal Aviation Administration's treatment of the Part 135 carrier or the explanation of the doctrine of *dépeçage*.

The subject of aviation law, dating back almost a 100 years, is broad, transversing state, national, and international regimes. This hornbook's coverage ranges from basic corporate matters,

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\*\* Bern Diederich is a senior attorney in the Office of General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. He is quite familiar with Professor's Larsen expertise from their joint practice of aviation law at DOT spanning 20 years, and he knows Professor Gillick from numerous professional contacts over the years. The views expressed in this review are Diederich's alone.

such as stock, bond, tax, and labor law; through regulatory oversight by the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Safety Administration, Department of Homeland Security, National Transportation Safety Board, and National Mediation Board; to unique service issues, from baggage loss to accommodation of people with disabilities. Aviation law, far from being settled, has come through the major changes of airline deregulation, 9/11 security issues, a spate of bankruptcies, and traumatic adjustments surrounding labor costs. Although aviation law is vast and ever-changing, *Aviation Law* is a handy, up-to-date desk reference—a must read!

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