

1930

Cases on Air Law, by Carl Zollman

George B. Logan

Recommended Citation

George B. Logan, *Cases on Air Law, by Carl Zollman*, 1 J. AIR L. & COM. 231 (1930)
<https://scholar.smu.edu/jalc/vol1/iss2/8>

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BOOK REVIEWS

CASES ON AIR LAW. By Carl Zollmann. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1930. Pp. xii, 530.

This is really the first casebook on air law. Reports have heretofore been published concerning aviation only and have been admirable for the purpose, but the previous publications, while collecting cases, have not given the student of the subject the benefit of a comprehensive arrangement.

Professor Zollmann's book is divided into two parts, one part being the cases on aviation and the other part, the cases on radio.

The cases on aviation are grouped and arranged under twelve headings, being as follows: Air Space Rights; Maritime Analogies; Airports and Airways; Negligence by Owner of Aviation Field; Liability of Pilot; Insurance; Common Carriers; Workmen's Compensation Act; Criminal Law; Contract; Air Mail Service; Lien on Aeroplane.

The cases on radio are grouped and arranged under ten heads, being as follows: History of Radio Act; Construction and Constitutionality of Radio Act; Taxation and the Commerce Clause; Ownership of and Control Over Radio Sending Station; Tort; Criminal Law; Contract; Copyright; Unfair Practices; Static.

The grouping and the subjects under which the cases are grouped appear to be admirable. As time develops more cases, the probabilities are that some of the headings will be capable of further subdivision.

A total of one hundred thirty-seven cases are given, of which ninety-nine are printed in full, the other cases being referred to in footnotes at the end of the various subdivisions of the topics.

Professor Zollmann does not claim to have cited all of the cases bearing on the subject. The book is plainly the result of an arrangement for his lecture courses. This is in a way unfortunate. There should be, by somebody, in the near future, a collection of all the cases bearing on all points and conveniently placed in one volume.

For instance, the writer personally knows of eight cases bearing on the question of the right of a municipality to issue bonds for an airport. Professor Zollmann gives three of these cases in full, and the opinions of these cases refer to one or two others, while others are cited in the footnotes. It would seem desirable to have them all set out in full, which, no doubt, will be done later.

On the whole this is probably the most valuable source book of this new and entrancing legal subject that has yet appeared. The author is to be congratulated both upon his industry and upon the judgment shown in selecting the cases to be reported. Of particular value are the references to the German decisions on various subjects as to which our own case law is as yet exceedingly meagre.

GEORGE B. LOGAN.