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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

A TREATISE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW. BY MORRIS D. FORKOSCH. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1956. Pp. xiv, 856. \$12.00.

Professor Forkosch of Brooklyn Law School is a noted authority in the field of administrative law, and in the related field of labor law. In this single volume he has discussed the subject of administrative law, a topic that is becoming daily more important to the average attorney. With 48 states and the federal government each creating administrative agencies, the procedural rules of which differ from state to state, from agency to agency, and from time to time, this field requires a generalized approach, but Mr. Forkosch manages to present and discuss numerous problems which are common to all jurisdictions.

An attorney called upon to represent his client before an administrative agency would find this volume useful in its discussion of what to expect in the way of procedure, what types of evidence may be introduced, what are the limits of the agency's discretion, etc. On appeal from an adverse administrative ruling, the lawyer might find invaluable the discussion of the types of appeal (certiorari, mandamus, etc.), the scope of judicial review, the substantial evidence rule, etc.

Mr. Forkosch, however, has written as a pedagogue, and it would appear in some instances that his pedagogical techniques have gotten out of hand. In explaining administrative law to a class of students with a blackboard available, it may have been useful to chart and illustrate the processes involved (mental and administrative) but in book form these illustrations, which attain great length and unnecessary complexity, detract greatly from the overall readability, comprehensibility, and quality of the book. On the other hand, this writer does not mean to criticize his basic chart of the administrative process, around which the book is designed, nor his PATs (points of attack) numbered on the chart, for they may have some value in organizing the material into an understandable pattern and in providing the attorney with a checklist with which to examine an administrative proceeding.

This is a book that is not to be lightly read; it is to be pondered. It purports to be written for students of administrative law and for practicing attorneys. Because of its length and dryness, it would seem ill-adapted for student use, and the same objection may deter a practicing attorney who is only casually interested in the field. But for

an attorney who is vitally interested in and plagued by the everyday problems of administrative law, this book could serve as a valuable reference work.

Robert N. Best