

An Introduction to the United States Legal System

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An Introduction to the United States Legal System

Cases and Comments

Alberto Manuel Benítez

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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Contents

Table of Principal Cases	ix
Preface	xi
Chapter 1 Legal Culture in the United States	3
Introduction	3
The Socratic Method	3
Socratic Method Still Debated; It Forces Legal Thought but May Intimidate Women, Minorities	3
California Court Structure	7
The Federal Courts	8
Comparing and Contrasting the U.S. Legal System with Foreign Systems	9
Disparate Justice Imprisons Mexico's Poor; As Police Focus on Petty Crime, Major Offenders Often Go Unpunished	9
A Matter of Degree: How a Jury Decided That a Coffee Spill Is Worth \$2.9 Million	12
Examples of the U.S. Legal System in Action	15
Man Tied to Pole Wins Suit; Pr. George's, Police Ordered to Pay \$647,000 in Rights Case	15
Judge Slashes Handcuffed Man's Award	17
Spires v. Spires	18
Notes and Questions	25
Basic Principles of the Comparative Method	26
Chapter 2 Briefing and Reading a Case	33
Introduction	33
How Do We Brief?	33
Reading the case	33
Analyzing the case	34
Components of the Brief	34
Facts	34
Procedural history	34
Issue	34
Rules	34
Application and Analysis	35
Holding	35

Final Thoughts	35
Introduction to Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	35
How to Brief	39
Introduction to Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	39
Practice Case to Brief	41
United States v. Alvarez-Machain	41
Chapter 3 Common Law	53
Introduction	53
Introduction to Common Law	53
Introduction to Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	53
The Power of Precedent	56
Plessy v. Ferguson	56
Overturning Precedent	70
Brown v. Board of Education	70
Notes and Questions	75
Chapter 4 The Legal Profession	83
Introduction	83
George W. Bush; The Record in Texas;	
Attorney's Ineptitude Doesn't Halt Execution	83
The American Legal Profession	86
INFORMATION RELATING TO ADMISSION	
OF ATTORNEYS IN MASSACHUSETTS	105
Court Accepts Clinton Resignation	114
Chapter 5 Civil Procedure: Pretrial Activities	117
Introduction	117
I. Complaint and Answer	117
How to Start a Lawsuit	117
II. Discovery	143
Fundamentals of American Law	143
III. Motions	163
Summary Judgment	163
President Clinton's Motion for Summary Judgment	164
Chapter 6 Civil Procedure: Trial	175
Introduction	175
I. Opening Statements	175
Fundamentals of American Law	175
Trial Techniques	178
II. Direct Examination	187
Trial Techniques	187
III. Cross Examination and Objections	201
Trial Techniques	201
Trial Techniques	210
IV. Closing Statements	214
Trial Techniques	214
V. Moot Court Problem	225

Chapter 7 Constitutional Law: Freedom of Speech and Privacy	231
Introduction	231
I. Freedom of Speech	231
Introduction to the First Amendment	231
Flynt v. Falwell	232
Notes and Questions	237
II. Privacy	239
Introduction	239
Roe v. Wade	239
Planned Parenthood of Southeastern	
Pennsylvania v. Casey	269
Notes and Questions	280
Lawrence v. Texas	281
Notes and Questions	296
Chapter 8 Constitutional Law: Criminal Rights	297
Introduction	297
Constitutional Criminal Rights and the Death Penalty	297
The Death Penalty: A summary	298
I. Search and Seizure	298
U.S. v. Montoya de Hernandez	298
II. Self-Incrimination	309
Miranda v. State of Arizona	309
III. Capital Punishment	320
Gregg v. Georgia	320
Chapter 9 Constitutional Law: Affirmative Action	333
Introduction	333
United States v. Jose Manuel-Gonzales	333
Regents of the University of California v. Bakke	334
UT Professor Blasts Efforts for Diversity on Campus	345
Grutter v. Bollinger	347
Notes and Questions	357
Chapter 10 Torts	365
Introduction	365
I. Big Food Litigation	365
Pelman v. McDonald's Corporation	365
Notes and Questions	375
II. Sexual Harassment	380
Burlington Industries, Inc. v. Ellerth	380
Notes and Questions	392
Index	397

Table of Principal Cases

Brown v. Board of Education	70
Burlington Industries, Inc. v. Ellerth	380
Flynt v. Falwell	232
Gregg v. Georgia	320
Grutter v. Bollinger	347
Lawrence v. Texas	281
Miranda v. State of Arizona	309
Pelman v. McDonald's Corporation	365
Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey	269
Plessy v. Ferguson	56
Regents of the University of California v. Bakke	334
Roe v. Wade	239
Spires v. Spires	17
United States v. Alvarez-Machain	41
United States v. Jose Manuel-Gonzales	333
United States v. Montoya de Hernandez	298

Preface

In this casebook, I introduce non-US trained lawyers and law students to the intricacies and nuances of our legal system. The world is becoming a smaller place and as a consequence of this globalization the need for lawyers who are international in perspective and competence is increasing. Whatever one's opinion about globalization there is no doubt that the US legal system is at the forefront of these changes.

The idea for this casebook arose after I taught the course "Introduction to the US Legal System" at the law school of the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) in Mexico City during the summer of 2000. I was impressed by the knowledge my Mexican law students had of the US legal system, and by how eager they were to learn more about it. Because I believe that people are people regardless of their citizenship I assumed that some lawyers and law students in other countries might be similarly interested. I like to flatter myself by thinking that I've compressed three years of US legal education into this one casebook. The reader will decide if I've succeeded.

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