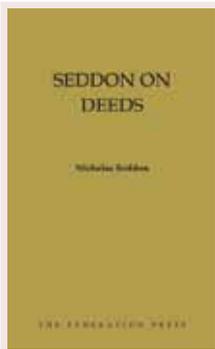




Seddon on Deeds



Nicholas Seddon

The Federation Press

RRP \$145

The worth of this golden tome far exceeds its surprisingly minimal weight. It is even more surprising that the first edition of *Seddon on Deeds* is arguably the only such exploration of its subject matter since Norton's *A Treatise on Deeds* was published in 1928.

Seddon's work is both practitioner-focused and insightful, blending a matter-of-fact discussion of principles with items of historical interest and observations about trends in the development of the law.

The author's intention was apparently to provide a simple anatomy of the modern law of deeds, whilst also recognising that law's complexity. Largely, Seddon is effective in achieving this. The book is divided into compartments for each of the topics of the use of deeds, execution, delivery and escrow, alteration and variation, interpretation, enforcement and remedies and discharge. Within sub-topics, reference is made to cases and provisions, but these are flagged for the reader to follow up as relevant, and do not interfere with the accessibility of the commentary.

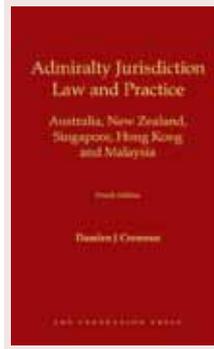
In contrast with his predecessor, Norton, Seddon's perspective is also deeply cautionary. He advises against the use of deeds and the arcane principles they invoke, warning the reader of entities so summoned that may come back to haunt them. In particular, he is critical of the habit of resorting to deeds for ritual emphasis and greater perceived formality when there is no legal advantage in doing so.

Simultaneously, however, Seddon recognises the various motivations for executing deeds. As such, he largely advocates for greater awareness of the risks, rather than a prescriptive approach to documenting agreements.

Sensibly, Seddon recognises that, for all their strange antecedents, deeds are unlikely to be banished. It is for this reason that lawyers must be familiar with them, and should find this concise treatise on practice and pitfalls useful.

Kellin Kristofferson, Baker Deane & Nutt

Admiralty Jurisdiction: Law and Practice



Damien J Cremean

4th edition

The Federation Press

RRP \$245

Even in the twenty-first century, admiralty law remains filled with the curiosities of bygone eras. For almost two decades, *Admiralty Jurisdiction* has assisted practitioners understand this fascinatingly complex and continuously changing world.

In its fourth edition, the increasing global environment has seen the book again expand upon its analysis of the laws of various countries, and now includes Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. The analysis is primarily undertaken by comparing the laws of these countries under particular topics.

Admiralty Jurisdiction covers four chapters, each of which incorporates a large number of legislation and cases. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the origins of admiralty law, along with the relevant laws of each jurisdiction covered in the book. Of particular interest in Chapter 2 is the discussion of the places in which a maritime claim may be made, along with what is defined as a 'ship'.

It is the remaining chapters though that highlights the book's comprehensiveness. The author canvasses a large number of maritime claims; ranging from issues surrounding loss of or damage to cargo, co-ownership, and salvage, right through to the more obscure alteration of a ship, port and harbour dues, and even bottomry.

The final chapter discusses useful practice considerations, such as the right to proceed in rem in the various jurisdictions, along with relevant procedural rules. The practicality of the book is also demonstrated by the inclusion of a number of precedents, which can serve as the foundation for practitioners to utilise in practice.

Overall, the fact that the author has been able to, again, provide a comprehensive, yet succinct, book on such a complex subject demonstrates its quality. Both students and experienced practitioners would find it a useful addition to their resources.

Melissa Jones, Defence Legal

Preventing Violence in Australia: Policy, Practice and Solutions



Andrew Day and Ephrem Fernandez (editors)

The Federation Press

RRP \$69

This is a timely contribution to the current community conversation about domestic violence in Australia. Written by experts in violence prevention across a range of disciplines, it sets out to describe those prevention strategies that they believe to be effective.

Violence is an all too familiar aspect of contemporary Australian society. The editors note the size and scope of the problem the Australian community faces in dealing with not only domestic violence but other serious criminal offences where violence is an integral element, including sexual assault, robbery and abduction.

The book consists of 16 chapters each written by a subject expert. Topics covered include victims' rights, violence prevention, school bullying, and mental health issues. The text includes relevant case studies that assist in the understanding of the topics being presented.

Of particular relevance to many practitioners is the discussion on what are called 'violence protection orders'. An issue that many local practitioners will be familiar with is the difficulty that many victims have in attending court. The authors note the establishment of 'specialist domestic violence courts' that aim to provide a safe and appropriate space for victims. Those whose practice includes Domestic Violence and Personal Protection Orders matters will note that 'best practice' as set out on this book, accords with what exists in the ACT Magistrates Court.

Although not a legal text, this book covers what the editors say should be the core knowledge when developing and implementing effective violence prevention policy. It is a helpful contribution to the ongoing debate on violence, especially domestic violence. It deserves a place not only on the bookshelf of practitioners whose practice includes its subject matter, but also on the shelf of those engaged in policy formulation in this important area of social and criminal justice reform.

Don Malcolmson