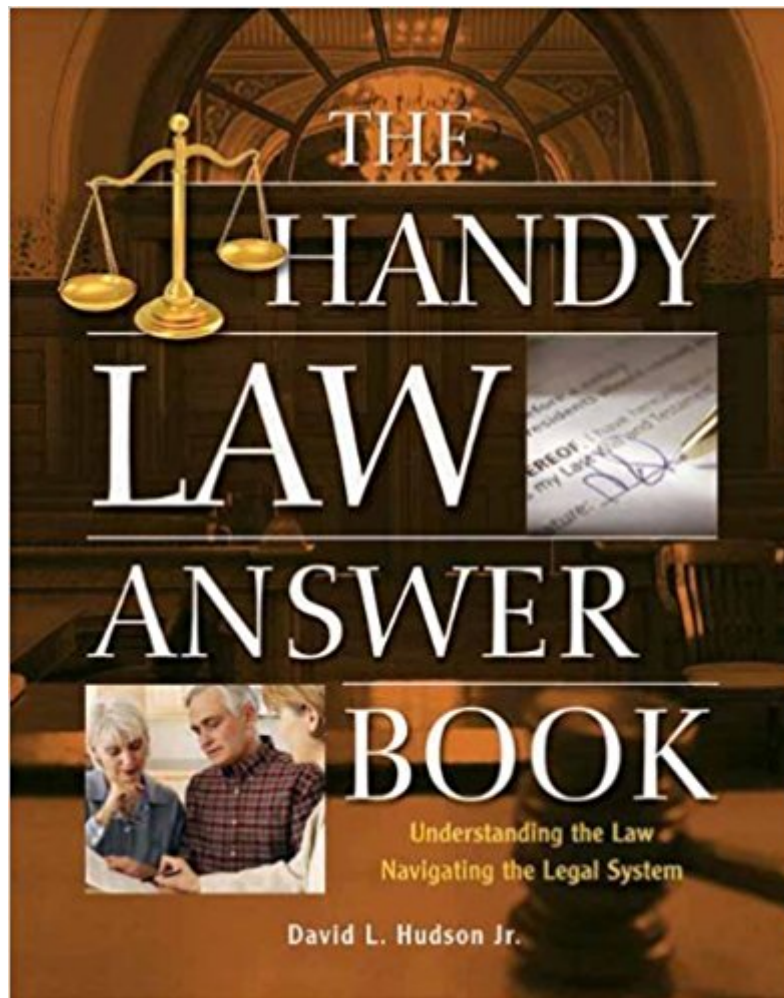




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The Handy Law Answer Book (The Handy Answer Book Series)



Synopsis

Combining practical legal tips with an exhaustive review of the law in the United States, this comprehensive reference answers more than 1,200 questions ranging from Where did the word tort come from? and How are state court judges selected? to Where did the first U.S. Supreme Court meet? Useful advice includes how to find a lawyer, how to file a complaint against a lawyer, how to document discrimination in the workplace, and how to handle oneself in court. Interspersed throughout are fun sidebars highlighting important cases and explanations of legal terms as well as entertaining information on bizarre and frivolous lawsuits, including one where a prisoner in Colorado sued prison officials after he injured himself during an escape attempt. With a wide range of information suitable for various knowledge bases—from junior high to junior college—this is an ideal source for anyone looking to get a better understanding of the law.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One of more than a dozen books in the Visible Ink Press "Handy" series, The Handy Law Answer Book by David L. Hudson Jr. surveys legal history in the United States and summarizes six prominent practice areas of the law: constitutional, criminal, bankruptcy, employment, family, and personal injury. The book provides a practical overview of these areas, including leading principles, seminal court rulings, and numerous "LegalSpeak" sidebars with specific examples and helpful explanations. Also useful are the glossary of more than 150 terms, the extensive index, and three appendices explaining how to cite cases and statutes, the complete text of the U.S. Constitution,

and ten pages of online resources. The author is well-qualified to address the subject and follows the question-and-answer format of the "Handy" series. The book's two principle shortcomings are those you might expect from the enormity of the undertaking. The book claims to be an exhaustive overview of U.S. law without touching on areas such as property, immigration, business entities, or intellectual property. Professor Hudson simplifies the issues, but sometimes struggles to be both legally precise and intelligible to laypersons. Consider this sentence on page 21: "It is essential to just construction that many words which import something excessive should be understood in a more mitigated sense--in the sense which common usage justifies." This sentence may be understandable to lawyers, but would surely puzzle the average person. The section on "sequestered juries" never defines "sequester," and the glossary also omits the term. Additional editing could improve text readability. Overall, The Handy Law Answer Book does a nice job of introducing readers to the rules that govern our society and the practice of law.

The world of law can be confusing and mysterious, starting with the history of our legal system clear through to practical every-day questions like "what is a tort?" (and it's not a dessert!) David L. Hudson Jr. does an excellent job in demystifying the topic in his book The Handy Law Answer Book. Even if you don't have a specific question or topic of immediate concern, the material is just plain interesting and leads to more than a few "gee, I didn't know that" moments. Contents: Constitutional Law; The Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment; The Court System; Lawyers and Lawsuits; Criminal Procedures; Credit and Bankruptcy Law; Employment Law; Family Law; Personal Injury Law; Appendix A - Explanation of Case and Statute Citations; Appendix B - The Constitution of the United States of America; Appendix C - Online Resources; Glossary; Index Each of the chapters follow a common style. The core material in the chapter is in the form of answers to a question. For instance, the Constitutional Law section starts out with "What is the primary source of law in the United States?" followed by "What exactly does the U.S. Constitution do?" The answers vary from a single paragraph to two or three pages, but in all cases the information is readily understandable by the average reader. Coupled with the questions, Hudson adds LegalSpeak sidebars that highlight specific court cases that helped to shape the law in that area. An example would be the *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) case that was the cornerstone for the Supreme Court ruling preventing self-incrimination without warning of the right to an attorney during questioning (the Miranda warning).

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