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Book Review

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Book Reviews

*Reviewed by Paul R. Donaldson**

MUNICIPAL LAW. By Charles S. Rhyne, National Institute of Municipal Law Officers (NIMLO), 839 17th Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., 1125 pp., 1957.

The treatment of the subject of Municipal Law as set forth by this volume serves as a guide to those who deal with problems which arise frequently in the modern city. In the consideration of any specific legal problem this book must be used in conjunction with state statutes, and the local charter and ordinances in order to determine if the general rules of law, as set forth in this work, are applicable.

The author, Charles S. Rhyne, is a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia and General Counsel to the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers (NIMLO), a position which he has held for more than 21 years. He is also the present President of the American Bar Association. Mr. Rhyne is one of the Nation's best qualified attorneys to prepare a work of this scope.

The basic form of this book is in the style of American Jurisprudence, in that it is written in text form and exceptionally well annotated. The footnotes are numerous. The cases cited cover every jurisdiction and, for the most part, are recent decisions. There appears to be an unusual number of Ohio citations. The 145 page index is detailed, complete and cross-referenced for ease in researching a problem under almost any heading. This, in itself, is an immeasurable aid to those dealing with municipal law problems. Because of the thorough indexing and clear, concise language, the volume lends itself easily to use as a handy reference book.

Since 1910 there has not been published, except in multi-volume editions, any work dealing with this field of law. In this single volume form Mr. Rhyne's handbook is especially useful.

The National Institute of Municipal Law Officers is an organization composed of officers of more than 1,000 cities throughout the United States. For over 20 years it has offered, to those seek-

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ing aid, advice, research, assistance, information and cooperation in the solution of municipal legal problems. Because of Mr. Rhyne's position and long tenure with NIMLO, it may well be that this volume will become one of the "bibles" of the municipal attorney.

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*Reviewed by Judge Lee E. Skeel**

OHIO TRIAL EVIDENCE, by Joy Seth Hurd and Bert H. Long. W. H. Anderson Co., Cincinnati, Ohio; xvii, and 805 pp.; 1957.

Evidence is the lifeline of forensic jurisprudence. Rights, tested in court proceedings, can only be sustained when the means of presenting the necessary factual background upon which such rights are based can be clearly established. The rules by which ultimate facts can be proved or disproved are therefore a very necessary part of the working tools of the trial lawyer. To narrow the subject only to the needs of trial procedure is, however, to unduly limit the nature and utility of a knowledge of the rules of evidence. The desk lawyer, as well as the trial lawyer, must continuously seek the truth of disputed questions of fact. The same rules, which, through historical experience, have been found to guide the inquiring mind of the magistrate to a more satisfying certainty of the truth of disputed facts among litigants, must be considered as helpful to the counselor as a basis for his counsel and advice.

The recent book *Ohio Trial Evidence* by Judge Joy Seth Hurd and Judge Bert H. Long, of the Courts of Appeals of Ohio, fills a great need in this field. This valuable legal work brings into a single volume the basic rules of evidence (including some of the historical background of the subject) clearly stating the leading cases wherein such rules have been applied in actual legal proceedings, the statutes of Ohio dealing with the rules of evidence, and the cases of our reviewing courts in which such statutes have been interpreted or applied and, probably that

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