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This edition updates the High Court decisions from the past 14 years and there have been more than 150 decisions of that Court dealing with matters relating to human rights in that period.

The intervening period has been important for human rights. Most lawyers could tell you where they were when they heard about the eleventh hour application made in *M70/2011 v the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship*. A discussion of same begins in chapter one.

Practitioners will want to read what the authors have to say about the decisions in *Momcilovic and Roach v Electoral Commissioner*.

While philosophically human rights may at some level be innate, their existence at law is a matter of interpretation.

TASMAN ASH FLEMING  
BARRISTER

## Interpretation and Use of Legal Sources – The Laws of Australia

Perry Herzfeld, Thomas Prince & Stephen Tully, *Interpretation and Use of Legal Sources – The Laws of Australia*, 2013, Thomson Reuters, pb \$139.95.

*Interpretation and Use of Legal Sources* is a comprehensive account of the interpretation of public and private documents. It is available in hard copy and also appears as Chapter 25 of Thompson Reuters' encyclopaedia, *The Laws of Australia*.

The book is divided into four parts. Part 1 deals with the interpretation of public documents and includes dedicated chapters on the interpretation of the constitution, statute and subordinate legislation. Part 2 is dedicated to the interpretation and use of international legal sources. Part 3 is concerned with private documents, with chapters on contracts, deeds, wills and trusts. Part 4 explains the interpretation of judicial statements with chapters on precedent, *res judicata*, issue estoppel, and the interpretation of orders and practice directions.

The book is what any encyclopaedic resource should be. The breadth of topics is second to none. Statements of principle are precise. Its referencing is impressive: the authors not only cite key cases of principle, but provide the reader with more modern resources that support or explain the principle. References are also made to relevant academic and extra-judicial scholarship. Through this the reader is armed with a comprehensive list of resources from which they can drill down.

The authors and publisher should be congratulated for producing a resource that considers both public and private documents, as well as the interpretation and use of such documents. It is an excellent starting point

for anyone who is called upon to interpret or implement a legal document – the lawyer's bread and butter.

LEIGH HOWARD  
CLAYTON UTZ

## Judicial Review of Administrative Action

Mark Aronson and Matthew Groves, *Judicial Review of Administrative Action* (5th edn), 2013, Thomson Reuters, pb \$249.95.

Many students and practitioners consider administrative law confusing. They regard it as an area that is best avoided, if at all possible. Such a view is unfortunate as administrative law is fundamentally concerned with the exercise of power. There are several books which provide assistance and a good example is Aronson and Groves 2013 release *Judicial Review of Administrative Action*.

Judicial review with its focus on the legality of decisions and decision-making processes, is perhaps, the most important part of administrative law. Comprising almost 1000 pages, Aronson and Groves seek to outline it and to a large extent they achieve that purpose. Easy to read and understand, the authors provide a compelling account.

The book has a relatively flat structure across 17 chapters. Procedural fairness is an example. Rather than discuss the hearing rule and the rule against bias in the same chapter the material is spread across individual chapters. This may have been for clarity or the result of an editing decision.

A topic that is not adequately addressed by Aronson and Groves is that of privatisation or public-private partnerships. By not dealing with this material, the authors miss the opportunity to place judicial review in context. More prominence should also have been given to statutory interpretation. Over the past decade in particular, common law judges have expressed concern that legal practitioners would rather discuss cases than focus attention on the enabling act – which of course is the source of power for the decision maker. Another matter is the absence of Australian legal history.

Deciding what to put into a book is as equally important as determining what to leave out but above all Aronson and Groves are to be congratulated. Their book is highly recommended to both law students and legal practitioners. ●

DR CHRISTOPHER BRIEN  
COLLEGE OF LAW & JUSTICE, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

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