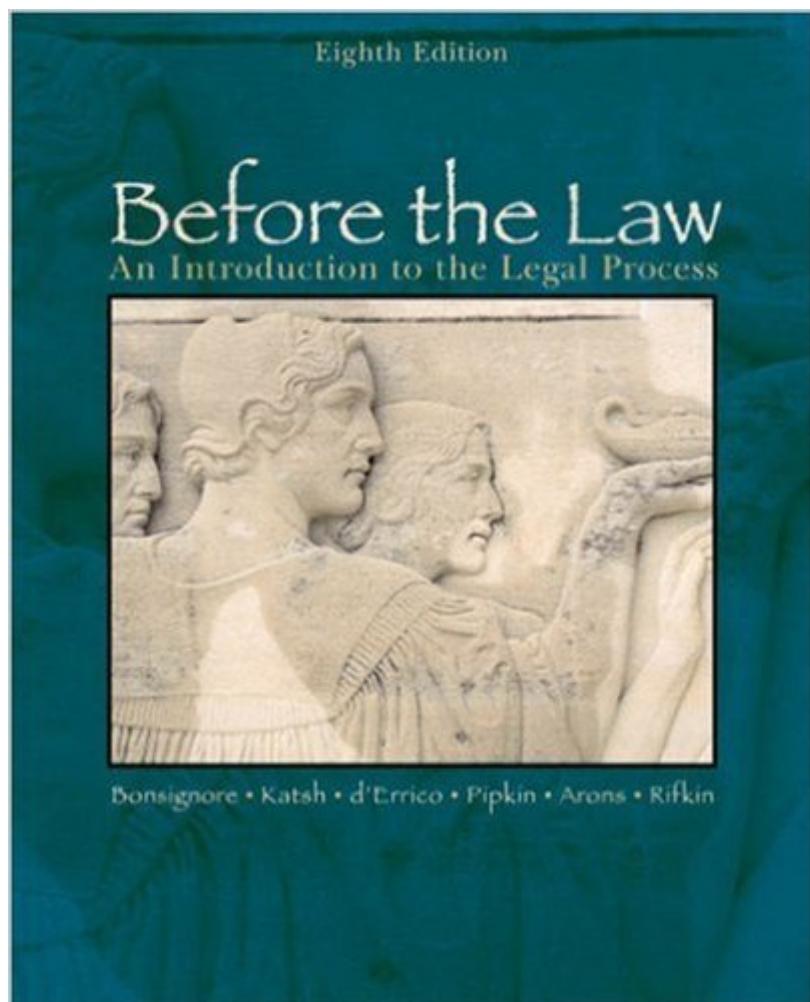


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Before The Law: An Introduction To The Legal Process



Synopsis

Before the Law promotes an interdisciplinary approach for introducing students to the purpose and practice of law in our society. Excerpts from recent and classic court cases, as well as material on trends in legal studies come from a range of legal sources, including court opinions; sociological, psychological, and anthropological analyses; historical and philosophical approaches; and literary reflections. Readings cover such current topics as online dispute resolution and protection of personal and property rights in cyberspace; gay marriage; and post-9/11 legislation for fighting terrorism.

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Customer Reviews

I first read this book as a freshman at the University of Massachusetts over a decade ago. I still have it on my bookshelf. What the writers have done, all professors at UMass, is to aggregate numerous sources of content some legal, some on the fringes which are made to be legal oriented in context, to offer an anti clinical and humanistic approach to the study of law. The focus is to offer the reader/student a different perspective on law and its impact and effect on society. I would imagine that reading the text alone may be a less than gratifying experience, but coupled with intellectual discussion it can be a tremendously powerful tool. The text is required reading for all UMass Legal Studies majors, and offers a wonderful foundation for moving forward within the study of law with a unique point of view.

This is no doubt an excellent collection. Obviously, a lot of thought has gone into the selecting of the

numerous reading. I've used it as companion to my course on sociology of law. It proved, however, a little too complex for undergraduates. I still believe it would be very useful for graduate courses, in particular the notes and questions accompanying the readings. My main objection is the clearly leftist (or anarchical ?) bias the reader rather rapidly detects. I am not questioning the right of the editors to promote their point of view. But I believe their sympathies should have been stated to start with. Textbooks need not be neutral; their leanings, however, should not be hidden behind pretended scientific or academic objectivity. It is somewhat annoying to have to warn students. The above does not mean that I will never assign the book again. But it is my considered opinion that the higher level of critical ability of graduate students is more appropriate to confront the propaganda aspect of this text.

The book was pretty well used and wrote in prior to my rental. Water damage, torn pages but cheap none the less. Return wasn't easy since you have to mail it back through the USPS. You can't use anything labeled Priority or Express by UPPS. Head to the dollar store for a bubble envelope to return book.

I like this book so far, and I'm reading it as a companion to my (undergrad) internship at a law firm. It has a broad overview of several areas of the law, but some chapters seem overly specific for a general survey. It has case summaries, interviews, excerpts from other books and essays written in the area, and commentary. It also addresses intersections of the field in sections like like "Law and Power." I would recommend it, but it's definitely a textbook and written that way.

This book was advertised as good condition as i recall, maybe, acceptable, i expected some wear of course but this thing is hammered. Filthy i plan to wear gloves when i have to handle it. The buyout price ought to be 25 bucks at best. The rental i think 10 would be appropriate

Excellent book! Rather than citing different academic papers, he just compiles the papers themselves and weaves them as sections of the chapter. The book is brilliant, it bestows one with historical perspectives, case history, and gives great insight into the challenges lawyers of all walks of life face.

This is my fourth attempt to have my review posted. The book is great. Needed it for class and it will serve its purpose, but I paid \$152 for a new book the book I received has highlighter marks and

folded pages. It is not as described.

This diverse collection of cases, parables, description of procedure and references demonstrates the broad range, politik, and capriciousness of THE LAW. Its offerings include the evolution of women being able to sue their husbands; marijuana decriminalization; gun control; free speech; gay marriage and more! The extensive references include literary and online. And it's a very readable read too!

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