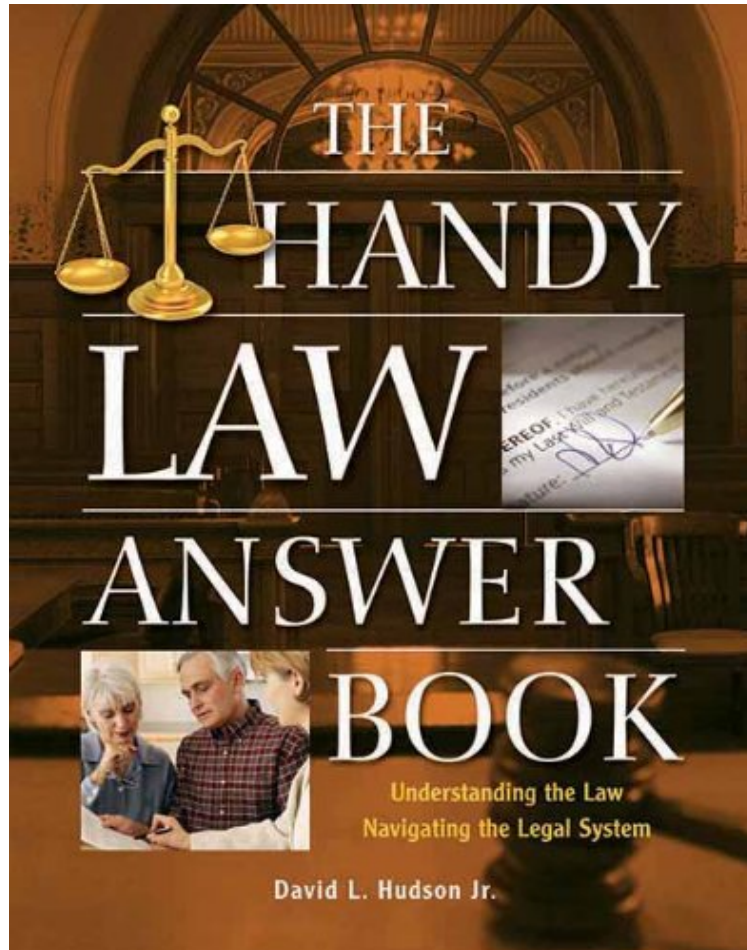


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## The Handy Law Answer Book (The Handy Answer Book Series)

David L Hudson

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**David L Hudson : The Handy Law Answer Book (The Handy Answer Book Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Handy Law Answer Book (The Handy Answer Book Series):

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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. It is probably most useful as a general reference tool for those with a strong interest in history, government, politics, or legal studies. Laurie A. Gray Reprinted from the Christian Library Journal (Vol. XV, No. 1, February 2011); used with permission.

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.

From Booklist Using the format of works such as The Handy Anatomy Answer Book (2008) and The Handy Philosophy Answer Book (2010), the author poses more than 800 questions and answers that offer the reader information on significant events, meaningful principles, and practical points in various legal areas beginning with a chapter on Constitutional Law (What does the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution say?) and ending with Personal Injury Law (Can a business be liable for injuries caused to its patrons by third parties?). Other chapters cover the Bill of Rights; the court system; lawyers and lawsuits; criminal procedures; and credit and bankruptcy, employment, and family law. One caveat: answering the question, What does it take to become a lawyer? the author states that Lawyers must possess a degree from a law school and then pass a difficult test known as the bar exam, ignoring the fact that several states still allow persons who have read the law under a practicing attorney or a judge to take the bar exam without attending law school. The many black-and-white illustrations relieve the QA format, and there are numerous sidebars titled LegalSpeak providing excerpts from actual rulings so that the reader can see the kind of language that prevails in legal documents. Appendix A addresses case and statute citations. The U.S. Constitution is found in appendix B, and appendix C lists many online legal resources. The 14-page glossary helps the reader with selected legal terms. Recommended for libraries and individuals who need an economically priced introduction to American legalese. --Sally Jane "Recommended for libraries and individuals who need an economically priced introduction to American legalese." Booklist "For anyone who wants to know more about coping with our court system, credit and bankruptcy law, employment law, family law, or personal injury law ... an excellent guide ... highly recommend. Written in a way that is easy to understand, it will arm any reader with the knowledge of what to do in a wide variety of situations and what to expect." Bookviews "The author is well-qualified. 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. It is probably most useful as a general reference tool for those with a strong interest in history, government, politics, or legal studies." Christian Library Journal "Using a question and brief answer format, this book answers every conceivable law query. The most potentially useful chapters focus on lawyers, lawsuits, criminal procedures, and credit and bankruptcy laws. Any reader with a legal issue will feel confident after learning the legalese that could be encountered in the court system." VOYA s "How many times have you slapped yourself on the forehead and said, Wish I knew the law pertaining to my credit information! Yeah, me neither. But when you really do need to know something about the law, a new reference book . . . is just the ticket." Wichita Falls Times Record News