

LAWYERS' FORUM

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All you need to know about federal law

Everything you need to know about federal court commercial litigation is in the new 14-volume treatise titled "Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts" (4th edition).

Editor-in-Chief Robert L. Haig, working with the ABA Section of Litigation, corralled 296 principal authors (including 27 judges and the cream of the commercial litigation bar) into creating a treatise that is unique in the annals of legal literature.

This production is one-stop shopping for procedural and substantive law, strategies, jury instructions, checklists and court forms for everything from aviation to zoning litigation.

The treatise comprehensively covers federal court jurisdiction, motion practice, trials and appeals and then devotes chapters to every kind of federal court litigation imaginable.

A few personal examples of how I have used the treatise may be helpful. Having practiced commercial litigation for 40 years at Winston & Strawn LLP, I recently used Haig's monumental work as a resource for jury instructions in patent and environmental cases.

And, having never handled a medical-malpractice case, I recently studied the chapter on federal court medical-malpractice litigation when I was appointed by a federal court to represent, on a pro bono basis, a federal inmate with a medical-malpractice claim against

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Kimball Anderson is a partner at Winston & Strawn LLP. He concentrates his practice in commercial litigation. A nationally known trial lawyer, Anderson is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and formerly served for many years as Winston & Strawn's general counsel and as a member of the firm's Executive Committee.

the U.S. government.

I also recently relied on the chapter on federal subject-matter jurisdiction when retained by a commercial client to defend a national class action where most of the putative class representatives were not residents of, and had no claim arising in, the federal court district where the action was pending.

The treatise comprehensively covers federal court jurisdiction, motion practice, trials and appeals and then devotes chapters to every kind of federal court litigation imaginable.

Readers of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin (I am a loyal subscriber) will recognize luminaries of the Chicago bar who have written chapters in this treatise.

They include Sean M. Berkowitz (Provisional Remedies); Robert A. Clifford (Aviation); Edward L. Foote (Cross-Examination); John Hamill (RICO); R. Chris Heck (Per-

sonal Jurisdiction and Service); Craig C. Martin (Crisis Management); Peter C. McCabe III (Cross-Examination); E. King Poor (Joinder, Severance and Consolidation); and Daniel E. Reidy (Comparison with Commercial Litigation in State Courts).

Also David M. Stahl (Public Utility); Julian Solotorovsky (Negotiations); Robert R. Stauffer (Motions in Limine); Christopher Tompkins (Motions in Limine); and Anton R. Valukas (Motions in Limine).

Eminent local judges who wrote chapters include U.S. District Judge Edmond E. Chang (Civil Rights) and U.S. District Judge Ronald A. Guzman (Broker-Dealer Arbitration).

In sum, there is no other book that combines in-depth treatment of federal civil procedure with substantive law in the areas most commonly encountered by commercial litigators.

As a bonus, the treatise includes litigation strategies, client counseling guides, procedural and practice checklists, checklists of essential allegations and defenses and hundreds of pages of litigation forms and jury charges.

The treatise is useful for the commercial litigator who needs an immediate answer for the client on the phone, or during a 10-minute deposition recess, or when he or she has several hours to study in more depth.

"Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts" (4th ed.; Thomson Reuters and ABA Section of Litigation) is an essential part of any litigator's library.