

**Review of
THE LAW IS AN ASS
*-make sure it doesn't bite yours!***

Author: Paul Brennan
Publisher: Apec Publishing
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Pages: 107
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Available through Brennans, Solicitors and Migration Agents, Mooloolaba, Qld

The author, Paul Brennan, has practised as a lawyer for many years in every continent except Africa and Antarctica! His broad experience has enabled him to produce this thoroughly informative and entertaining book demystifying the law for the general public.

Based upon a regular weekly column produced by Paul for the Sunshine Coast Daily, the book incorporates practical advice, irreverent humour and even witty cartoons. Lawyers will also find this a useful and amusing reference to have by their side.

This compact book is divided into 5 sections covering Individual Law (wills, divorce, being arrested etc), Business, Litigation, Intellectual Property and e-law (how up to date is that?).

The appeal of the book is the fact that it is so easy to read. Each subject matter is covered in a two page "article" with its own cartoon. You'd have to be hard to please not to be laughing continuously at the same time as learning everything one needs to know about many basic areas of the law.

To get a feel for the book some great examples (amongst lots) are:

- On wills – "There are many persuasive reasons for making a will. For instance, there is nothing more satisfying than writing someone out of your will. However, you need to make one first."
- On leases - "Landlords are not nice people. Something seems to come over people who own a property and rent it out. Once you understand that they get a lot easier to deal with."
- On trials - "Some witnesses (defence and prosecution) decide to add a few things to their testimony to present a better case. Technically, this is known as lying."

On emails - "Just as the art of correspondence was being phased out by the telephone along came email and now everybody is emailing from teenagers to terrorists."

I commend this book to all and sundry. My only fear is that if the general public reads it they will end up knowing almost as much as lawyers! What will happen to our hourly rates then?

Tony Laumberg
22/5/06