

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of "Scientists in the Legal System"

REFERENCE: Thomas, William A., *Scientists in the Legal System*, Ann Arbor Science Publishers, Inc., Ann Arbor, Mich., 1974, 141 pages, \$14.50.

The editor of this compact volume seeks to relate scientists to the legal process in a meaningful manner—as essential contributors not as tolerated meddlers. He succeeds. By a judicious selection of authors who are practicing lawyers or practicing scientists, the editor has illuminated the traditional use of science by the law to prove facts. He has, in addition, emphasized the progressive utilization of science by the administration of justice to achieve a life of quality both for the individual and for society.

Among the articles which convey the traditional materials are "Scientists as Suppliers of Fact: Do Lawyers Listen?" by Donald R. Moore, President, Federal Administrative Law Judges Conference, and "Scientists in the Courtroom," by David Sive of the New York Bar.

The second category of articles indicating the progressive utilization of scientists to better the lot of humankind through the justice process is represented in such chapters as "Obligation of Scientists to Respond to Society's Needs," by consumer advocate Ralph Nader; "Science and Society in the Environment Age," by Maurice F. Strong, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya; and "Law, Science and Public Policy: A Problem in Communication," by James W. Curlin, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.

A third category beyond these traditional use and progressive utilization relationships between science and law is the emerging area of the simultaneous impact of science and law on each other. Something is happening to both science and law as they interface in modern society. Law is becoming more scientific as suggested by Lee Loevinger of the District of Columbia Bar in "Jurimetrics: Science in Law." Science, meanwhile, is becoming more legal as revealed in "Reception of Science by the Legal System," written by Ralph Nowell, Professor of Law at University of South Carolina.

A final type of article in this publication seeks to evaluate the current intermeshing of science and law. One article emphasizing the theoretical is "Exchange of Ideas Between Scientists and Lawyers: A Benefit-Cost Analysis," authored by Roderick A. Cameron, Executive Director, Environmental Defense Fund. A counterpart writing emphasizing the practical is "Courts as Institutions for Assessing Technology," by Philip L. Bereano, Department of Environmental Engineering, Cornell University.

In this small volume the variety of authors is stimulatingly broad. Furthermore, each writer provides substantial citations and references which will permit the reader to pursue the challenging ideas introduced.

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Upon completing these provocative pages, one should meditate on what is truly occurring in the dynamics of the science and law fusion now underway. Science is a process for the *pursuit* of truth to create knowledge. Law is a process for the *recognition* of truth to provide justice. It is this *pursuit* and this *recognition* which are becoming united as one process in modern society. The independence of the individual, scientist or lawyer, is giving way to the interdependence of the processes of science and law to create knowledge and to provide justice simultaneously and cooperatively.