

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Forensic Medicine for Lawyers

REFERENCE: Mason, J. K., *Forensic Medicine for Lawyers*, Butterworth Publishers, Inc., 10 Tower Office Park, Woburn, MA 01801, 1983, 400 pp., \$59.95.

No American trial attorney worth his salt could fail to have his fantasies stirred by a title such as *Forensic Medicine for Lawyers*: “. . . Ah, at last a working resource to guide all future deposition and cross-exam preparation. Never again, the fears of hopelessness and helplessness when facing my opponent’s forensic expert.”

Alas, it is not to be. As the preface to the first edition notes, the author hopes that this text will be found useful by “solicitors, Procurators Fiscal and Coroners.” This may be so, but this reviewer can scarcely recommend this text to those outside this limited group. Indeed, if a little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing, I *would* recommend that any practicing American trial attorney stay miles away from this work. In defense, I would refer any potential reader to the chapter on forensic toxicology. There is just enough information to get a litigator in deep trouble. To make matters worse, this chapter is totally lacking in references to more in-depth texts or articles.

The day of the “shoot from the hip” trial attorney has come to a close. Preparation for litigation demands accurate, in-depth, technical resources. For the American trial attorney, this book falls far short.

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