

BOOK REVIEW

*Morris Reyna*¹

A Review of Techniques of Legal Investigation, Second Edition

REFERENCE: Golec, A. M., *Techniques of Legal Investigation, Second Edition*, Charles C Thomas, 2600 South First, Springfield, IL 62717, 1985, \$39.75.

The revised edition of this book is fraught with errors starting with the glossy bookcover, which has a photograph printed backwards, to sections that are incomplete or so cursory in nature that the reader is left with the impression that the author lacks any in-depth knowledge in these areas.

The chapter on forensic photography is devoid of information on technical photography, color photography, utilization of color standards, macrophotography, or use of a scale. Many of the photographs used to illustrate the book are seemingly without purpose and fail to support the caption. The author fails to seize the opportunity to stress the importance of using photographs to relate a story or even the use of landmarks to serve as reference points for the investigator or the jurors.

The reader gets the impression that many of the illustrations are included to serve as advertisement for the author and to portray the author's method or format as the definitive authority. The use of dated or erroneous literature citations causes difficulty in attempting to utilize the book as a reference source.

At best, the book has reprinted resource material that may serve as a starting point for the inexperienced investigator.

¹Chief medicolegal investigator, Forensic Sciences, Department of Pathology, Arizona Health Sciences Center, 1501 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ.