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Abstract

Keywords
ocean, water, boating, Fifth Amendment

Erratum
The citation for this review is 7 RISK 385 (1996) in most commercial databases.

Mr. Nixon, an Associate Professor of Marine Affairs and lawyer, has assembled a set of materials fairly typical of those used in law school teaching. His book is well produced and comprises cases arranged by subject matter. Each is followed by a few questions designed to focus attention on what he regards as most relevant.

Marine and Coastal Law is clearly not for the average reader of Risk. Yet, some who are neither lawyers nor aspiring lawyers may find it (or other casebooks) useful. Many risk professionals find court decisions important to their work but learn about them only second or third hand. Such people are apt to find direct exposure to be more interesting and enlightening than imagined. And it is helpful when related cases are collected in a single source and arranged by topic.

Subject matter of most possible interest includes Public Access to the Shoreline (Ch. 4), Regulating Development in Coastal Zones: The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (Ch. 5 — also contains selected provisions of the Act), When Does Regulation Go Too Far? The Takings Issue (Ch. 6) and Marine Pollution Law (Ch. 10).

When regulation amounts to a taking for which compensation is due under the 5th Amendment, for example, is not generally well understood. A variety of regulatory professionals would find value in having a better sense of the judicial perspective on that issue alone. It could also lay a foundation for better understanding of legislative proposals that would go well beyond Constitutional requirements.

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