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Review of: Jerry L. Anderson, Environmental Law Practice

Danielle L. Pacik

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Erratum
The citation for this review is 11 RISK 255 (2000) in most commercial databases.

Two environmental lawyers who also are law school professors developed this book to prepare students for the practice of environmental law by introducing students to the problems environmental lawyers face daily. The authors achieve their desired goal by developing students' practical skills through various problems and exercises in the book. As the Foreword aptly notes, environmental statutes and regulations tend to be complex and somewhat ambiguous. To navigate these complicated issues, the book provides the practical tools necessary for students to effectively handle environmental cases.

The text is divided into four chapters that delineate the environmental implications involving compliance, enforcement, litigation, and policy. The authors discuss these subjects by reviewing topics such as client counseling, negotiating disputes, initiating citizen suits, litigating cases, and participating in rulemaking procedures. In each chapter, the authors provide students with hypothetical problems, sources of law, and tips regarding the practical considerations an attorney may face. These hypothetical problems require students to read and decipher relevant statutes, the legislative history, federal regulations, and case law surrounding the issues. In total, the book provides students with hands-on training about some of the issues and laws surrounding environmental litigation and administrative process.

For example, Chapter I provides a problem in which a client wishes to expand her business. The student must advise the client about the ways in which the business can maintain compliance with the Clean Air Act. This problem introduces students to the United States Code, the Code of Federal Regulations, the Federal Register, case law, regulatory preambles to the Federal Register, and agency memoranda. The chapter then discusses some of the many elements of client counseling, with exercises concerning ethical considerations in environmental law.
Since applying the law is often the best way to learn and understand a subject, this book is a valuable resource that can be used in both beginning and advanced environmental law courses. The text not only teaches students about the relevant law, but also provides a realistic overview of the day-to-day issues an environmental attorney may face. Whether one wants to learn about how to research a case, appeal a penalty that has been assessed, or initiate a citizen suit, Environmental Law Practice prepares students to practice environmental law by going beyond the boundaries of typical law school classroom discussions.

Danielle L. Pacik†

† Ms. Pacik is a candidate for the J.D. at Franklin Pierce Law Center. She received a B.A. (Womens' Studies and Anthropology) from the University of Colorado.