Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

Labor and Employment Law Desk Book

Gordon E. Jackson
Prentice Hall (West Nyack, NY)

Labor and Employment Law Desk Book belongs on the desk (or on a nearby shelf) in the office of every practitioner and judge involved with this area of the law. The book is, in essence, a narrative summary of every important federal and state statute touching upon labor relations and employee benefits. Each sentence of the narrative sets forth, in simple language, a major provision of the law, and (in a footnote) the appropriate citation. The book thus serves as an outline of the law, and a very handy statutory index. This latter function renders it invaluable to those who need to find the law quickly.

The first half of the book, dealing with federal law, is the most successful. It is comprehensive and easy to use. The author displays a familiarity with the law derived from practical experience, and his narrative reflects this expertise. He focuses on points with which practitioners will be concerned, and wisely omits all further commentary.

That the author undertook a similar survey of the diverse laws of each and every state is a testament to his industry and self-confidence. With respect to this reviewer's own state (New York), the coverage appears to be accurate, but is not finely attuned to important local issues. This generalized treatment is, perhaps, inevitable in a project of this scope. The net result is that purchasers of the book will have a very good outline of the federal labor law, a helpful guide to the laws of his own state, and (for what it may be worth) a very general summary of the labor laws of each of the other forty-nine states.

One drawback of the volume may be its sewn (rather than loose-leaf) format. However, because the book is intended as an index, rather than an authoritative source of law, statutory amendments will greatly detract from its usefulness in most instances. The book is highly recommended.