**INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LAW**

By S.M. Waddams

Agincourt: The Carswell Company, 1979

XV and 270 pp. $16.25, hardcover; $7.95, paperback

**CHARLOTTE K. GOLDBERG***

Those who read law books to cure insomnia will be surprised by S.M. Waddams' *Introduction to the Study of Law*. The writing sparkles. Professor Waddams has brought his considerable writing skills to a subject clouded by obscurity, particularly for the beginning law student.

The book begins with the question "What is Law?" This sets the tone of the book, which endeavours to introduce not only the vagaries of legal vocabulary but also the principles and policies behind them. Next comes a chapter on Legal Education, followed by chapters on Legal Language and Analysis of Legal Problems. The remainder of the book deals with Public and Private Law, Common Law and Equity, Statutes and the Structure of the Courts, and finally, the Legal Profession. The Appendices, which are very extensive for a book of this size, include Latin and French phrases, lists of law reports and other books, common abbreviations, law schools in Canada, and a Statement of the Association of American Law Schools on Prelegal Education Policy.

The book is intended for use in law schools as well as pre-law and law related courses. This, unfortunately, is a weakness. Beyond Orientation Week, its value in law school is very limited, although the portion on the analysis of legal problems may provide some helpful advice on answering examination questions. The portions on how to approach the admissions process are certainly superfluous for the student who has already made it. Several areas are given short shrift. In particular, those portions dealing with public policy and social change are barely explained.

The explanation of the divisions of law and the Canadian court system are given far better treatment in Gerald Gall's recent book.1 Although Gall's book is more extensive, Waddams' book would be more helpful if some charts could be added explaining the court structure in each Province. By eliminating much of the material intended for others, and treating in greater depth the topics law students will encounter, such as precedent and *stare decisis*, and the interaction between the legislature and the courts, this book would be of greater value to law students.

On the other hand, Waddams makes good use throughout of the example of the original owner trying to recover a lost or stolen watch from a *bona fide* purchaser. He also gives a glimpse of every exciting case decided in Anglo-Canadian jurisprudence. This should whet the appetite of every student.

---

* Editor, Manitoba Law Journal and Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba.

In the past, it has been necessary to turn to England\(^2\) or the United
States\(^3\) for introductory materials in law. Therefore, Waddams' "little red
book" does fill a gap in Canadian legal materials. Although significant im-
provements could be made, I would recommend it either as summer reading
for incoming law students or for use in Orientation Programmes.

3. S. Mermin, *Law and the Legal System* (1973). See also J. Dobbyn, *So you want to go to Law School* (1976); B. Siegel,
The study of law is intellectually stimulating and challenging and can lead to a variety of interesting careers. In the UK and the USA, law degree programmes usually take three years to complete. In the UK, these programmes typically include core subjects such as criminal law, contract law, tort law, land law, equity and trusts, administrative law and constitutional law. In addition, students are often required to take courses covering such as legal writing and legal research. Here is also a variety of optional (elective) courses available. These law clinics offer free legal assistance to the local community and provide a useful introduction to some of the day-to-day work of a lawyer. For students wishing to work in a commercial practice, knowledge of foreign language is essential. Introduction to Law is a half course for the second year ICEF students which is a part of the HSE degree programme. It is specifically designated so as not to require any prior exposure to law, and does not suppose that students will necessarily pursue any further law options. Nevertheless, it is designed in the belief that an acquaintance with core law concepts and processes is an essential element in the ICEF curriculum. The course provides an overview of the major legal systems of the world, introduces the students to the study of constitutions and constitutional system of Government. It also focuses on the key legal concepts, principles and doctrines which underpin the core areas of law, including public law, the law of obligations and company law. Teaching objectives. Comparison between the present official law of England and the present droit administratif of France. Conventions of the Constitution. First question. Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data. Dicey, Albert Venn, 1835-1922. Introduction to the study of the law of the constitution. Reprint. Originally published: 8th ed. Introduction to Law. Definition of law is a rule of conduct developed by government or society over a certain territory. Law follows certain practices and customs in order to deal with crime, business, social relationships, property, finance, etc. The Law is controlled and enforced by the controlling authority. Let us explore the various definitions of law by different authors in detail. Various Definitions of Law. Principle Sources of Indian Law – Customs. Principle Sources of Indian Law – Judicial Decisions. Principle Sources of Indian Law – Statutes and Legislation. Principle Sources of Ind
The common law of England and Wales is one of the major global legal traditions. Its principles appear for the most part in reported judgments, usually of the higher courts, in relation to specific fact situations arising in disputes which courts have adjudicated. The course will give you an introduction to this influential legal system including its history, constitutional background, sources and institutions. You will learn about the different ways in which laws are made and interpreted, the English court system and the increasing importance of European Union and human rights law. West legal studies. Study Guide to Accompany Introduction to Law, Fourth Edition. by Beth Walston-Dunham. COPYRIGHT © 2004 by Delmar Learning. The Publisher makes no representation or warranties of any kind, including but not limited to, the warranties of fitness for particular purpose or merchantability, nor are any such representations implied with respect to the material set forth herein, and the publisher takes no responsibility with respect to such material. The publisher shall not be liable for any special, consequential, or exemplary damages resulting, in whole or part, from the readers' use of, or reliance upon, this material. CONTENTS. The introduction to Law Text and Study Guide vi Study Hints vii. CHAPTER 1. Introduction to Law: This course aims to familiarize the student with the study of law; to begin the development of certain basic skills, such as reading, analysis and synthesis of legal decisions, and interpretation of statutes; to discuss fundamental aspects of the legal process, e.g. how courts make law and the function of the courts with respect to statutory law. Contract law: This course covers the fundamental principles governing the formation, interpretation, performance, and enforcement of contracts. In addition, special attention is given to the requirements of offer and acceptance, law firm take? The study of law is intellectually stimulating and challenging, and can lead to a variety of interesting careers. In the UK and the USA, law degree programmes usually take three years to complete. In the UK, these programmes typically include core subjects such as criminal law, contract law, tort law, land law, equity and trusts, administrative law and constitutional law. These clinics offer free legal assistance to the local community and provide a useful introduction to some of the day-to-day work of a lawyer. For students wishing to work in a commercial practice, knowledge of foreign languages is essential. When law rms hire new recruits, they generally look at four things: education, personality, work experience and language ability. Introduction to law study text. ii. INTRODUCTION This chapter deals with jurisprudence which is the study of the nature of law. Since the term law has no assigned meaning this chapter provides the various meanings that different scholars have assigned to law. It further advances to give the various classes of law, in other words the different types of laws. KEY DEFINITIONS. Jurisprudence: The study of the nature of law. Accused: a suspect is charged with a crime Cause of action: When a persons civil or private rights are violated Plaintiff: An aggrieved party or one who brings a cause of action to a court of law. Defendant: A pe