

**Uniform Evidence Law**  
5th Edition by  
**Stephen Odgers**  
SC  
**The Lawbook Company, RRP \$93.50 (soft cover)**

Stephen Odger's definitive guide to the *Uniform Evidence Act* now appears in its fifth edition. This practical guide has been extensively used by both practitioners and students since its first publication. The fifth edition of the work has been comprehensively updated and includes new features which will assist those using the book to quickly locate relevant parts of the legislation and updated commentary.

Stephen Odgers, who is seen from time to time in the Court of Criminal Appeal of the Northern Territory, is a respected and very experienced barrister.

He has drawn on his experience as a practitioner, as a teacher of evidence and his involvement with the Australian Law Reform Commission in order to write with great authority and clarity on his subject.

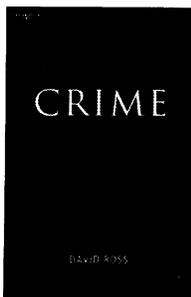
The detailed commentary provides an explanation of each provision. Each section of the Act is printed in highlighted text before the commentary on that section. The commentary includes clearly sub-titled general and specific comments together with relevant definitions. The definitions and comments are themselves clearly set out in an easily accessible format. In addition, the commentary is cross-referenced to related sections, to other relevant legislation and to policy documents. Mr Odgers also analyses the interaction of the legislation with the common law and makes extensive and valuable references to case law.

Recent authorities are referred to by

the author and their application in the context of pre-existing authorities is given careful consideration. Mr Odgers analysis is clear, authoritative and easily understood.

As any trial lawyer knows, trial procedure is, to a great extent, determined by the law of evidence. A good trial lawyer understands that a detailed, up-to-date, effective understanding of the law of evidence is central to their trade. *Uniform Evidence Law* is an essential text for anyone whose practice requires a working knowledge of the *Uniform Evidence Act*.

- Jan Whitbread, ODPP



**Crime: A-Z Guide** by David  
**Ross QC**  
**The Lawbook Company, RRP \$110**

This is the ABC of crime, think of a topic, look it up! Quick as a flash!

Some lawyers call it their bible. Others roll their eyes. I love it.

This is a book for all seasons. Open it at any page, at any topic, at any time. Read it on the bus. Read it on the loo. Browse. Read it in short bursts and then ponder, but read it.

Who ever would have thought a law book could be entertaining. This one is. Now I must come clean about this book. This is a manual for the defence. It is ideal for trench warfare, and is good for the odd ambush.

If you don't believe me, look at what they use in the maji's court. And don't expect this book to tell you the law. This book skirts around the law, points out the good bits, waves them in front

of you, and then moves on. There is an awful lot that is left unsaid.

Crime (the book) is well set out, in alphabetical order, with over 300 legal terms and principles one finds in the criminal law.

There are a great many NT case references, which is both a good thing and a bad thing. It's good to be noticed, but it would seem to be preferable to be noticed for things other than ground (rock) breaking criminal law.

Among the headings is one for Jazz, (it comes just after Issue Estoppel), which chronicles the unusual, shady and sometimes criminal world of music and musicians.

"Extraordinary how potent cheap music is" Noel Coward (1930). In case one needed to further entrench a natural distrust of people who hit things for a living, one discovers a drummer who's role was to play loudly to disguise the sound of gunshots. *R v Redenbach (1991)52 A Crim R 95(Vic CCA)*.

And did you know that Paul Robeson, Handel, Hoagy Charmichael and Gilbert

(of "and Sullivan" fame ) were all lawyers before getting real jobs.

The learned author, David Ross QC, is a keen and frequent visitor to these parts. Whilst mainly working in NSW, which of course dear readers is a common law jurisdiction, his frequent forays up here, and to other code states, has given him a rare insight into the vagaries and convolutions of both the codes and the common law. These insights he displays with an easy grace in court and if any of you dear readers can, I suggest you rock up to listen when he is in town.

As you probably know this book is the new racing edition of the loose-leaf service one spots in the better-equipped libraries. The loose-leaf service has been discontinued apparently, but we haven't lost a thing. My new copy seems to have little bits and pieces that the bound copy doesn't have, and looks just as comfortable on the Bar table.

Thoroughly recommended.

- Martin Fisher, ODPP