

**Concise Corporations Law (4th edition)**  
by Julie Cassidy  
The Federation Press

The *Corporations Act* consists of 1,409 sections and four Schedules. The *Corporate Law Reform Act* consists of 1,389 sections and two Schedules. Ford's *Principles of Corporations Law* contains 1,278 pages. There are numerous other texts and services of a similar magnitude.

A text entitled *Concise Corporations Law*, of 348 pages, is therefore of instant and understandable appeal.

It is relatively easy, of course, to be "concise" if one reduces the subject to such a summary form as to be unhelpful or, at worst, misleading. The test, therefore, is to achieve a full sweep of the subject in a compact and accessible form.

Julie Cassidy has produced a comprehensive, contemporary and accessible guide to this complex and fluid area of the law.

The author holds an LLB(Hons) from Adelaide University and obtained a doctorate at Bond University. She is presently Associate Professor in Law at Deakin University.

*Concise Corporations Law* first appeared in 1995 and is now in its 4th Edition, published in 2003.

The coverage of the work is best demonstrated by the chapter headings. These, in turn, deal with; an overview of the historical development of corporations law and present judicial and administrative arrangements, choosing between business organisations, corporate personality, promoters and pre-registration contracts, incorporation registration of

corporations, the corporate constitution, shares and dividends, disclosure documents, appointment and removal of directors, directors duties, meetings, members remedies and external administration.

The work could have, in fact, been a little more concise as the first chapter suffers from significant repetition. This malaise is attenuated, although not altogether eliminated, in subsequent chapters.

A useful and user friendly feature of the book is the identification of leading cases, with a summary of the facts and ratio and often also with an extract entitled "leading statements" by the judges.

These case summaries and extracts are highlighted in a way that one might use in research and preparation. The case is identified as a leading case, the citation given and the summary of facts and ratio set out in an indented paragraph with a line running down the left hand margin. Leading judicial statements are similarly highlighted.

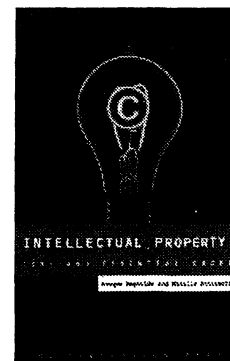
An example of how contemporary the work is, is the inclusion of cases such as *ASIC v Adler* arising out of the collapse of HIH Insurance.

In closing I leave you with the classic statement in *Jones v Lipman* where in justifying the lifting of the corporate veil the court said that the company was:

*a mask which the defendant held before his face in an attempt to avoid recognition by the eye of equity.*

Whilst the need to consult the full and authoritative texts will remain in many circumstances, the author has achieved what she set out to do, to provide a reliable guide to the complexities of corporations law in a concise and accessible form. ①

- Paul Walsh, partner, Priestley Walsh



**Intellectual Property - Text and Essential Cases**  
by Rocque Reynolds and Natalie Stoianoff  
The Federation Press

Virtually everything we do these days has some connection with intellectual property - reading a book, watching TV, listening to music, surfing the net, are obvious examples. You only have to remember the furore regarding Napster and music copyright on the internet, to realise how increasingly important this body of law is becoming.

As a lawyer, there is a need to have at least a basic understanding of the principles of intellectual property, because you never know when the law relating to intellectual property will affect a particular matter you're working on. For example, in the area revenue law, specific types of intellectual property are prescribed to be "dutiable property" for stamp duty purposes. It is therefore important to know, in relevant circumstances, what type of intellectual property, if any, your client is acquiring.

The text is 552 pages and a relatively easy read as far as legal texts go. It is divided into five parts:

1. Introduction;
2. Copyright and Neighbouring Rights;
3. Patents;
4. Protecting Business Reputation and Marks; and
5. Designs, Plant Breeder's Rights, Circuit Layouts and Confidential Information

The introduction is refreshingly short and gives you a thumbnail sketch of the sources of law relating to intellectual property.

We then get into the meaty part of the text, with a full history lesson on the origins of copyright and then four detailed chapters on copyright canvassing subsistence of copyright, rights of the copyright owner, balancing interests and dealing with copyright. There is a final chapter on the interesting topic of neighbouring rights, which includes discussion on moral rights and performers protection.

The next part of the text consists of three chapters on Patents. This is followed by a further three chapters on Passing Off and Trademarks - in my view, essential reading for any commercial lawyer. The final part of the book devotes a chapter each to Designs, Plant Breeder's Rights, Circuit Layouts and Confidential Information.

One of the things I really liked about this text is the way relevant case extracts on each topic are included at the end of each chapter. I generally find texts that include cases quite difficult to read because the dispersion of case extracts between commentary makes it hard to stay focussed. However, by including the case extracts at the end of each chapter, I found this text a lot easier to read.

Overall, I'd give it eight out of ten and recommend it as a text worth having for reference.

Incidentally, the Napster case is discussed several times in the text. ①

- Leon Loganathan, Ward Keller

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