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Cases on Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure (Book Review)

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The subject of Conflict of Laws is important, the decisions are in an apparent discord. This book is recommended to any attorney to whom is presented a conflicts problem for determination as a means of getting his bearings and as a case-finder to the important decisions.

N. William Welling.


The author of this Case Book is a well-known authority on Procedure and is, therefore, eminently fitted to the task of producing a much needed Case Book on Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure. Perhaps too little attention has been paid by our Law Schools to this important subject, and the young practitioner soon finds this out. With a vast increase in both the amount and scope of Federal Legislation in recent years, the practising lawyer finds each year more and more of his cases must be brought or defended in the Federal Courts, and, therefore, the timeliness of a Case Book dealing with this subject is very apparent. Indeed, so great has been the increase in the number and diversity of cases litigated in the Federal Courts that our Law Schools may well consider the advisability of adding a course in this subject to their curricula.

The book very properly commences with a group of cases designed to bring out the nature, source and extent of the Federal Judicial Power, illustrating, among other things, the general limitations upon that power and the important subject of the relation between State and Federal Courts. About three-fifths of the book is taken up with cases on the troublesome and perplexing subject of Original Jurisdiction, District Courts, and Removal of Causes from the State to the Federal Courts. About one-fifth of the book is devoted to the subject of Appellate Jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States. A valuable Appendix contains the Constitution of the United States, the Judicial Code, the Removal Act of 1866, Revised Statutes of the United States and Miscellaneous Statutes relating to Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure.

One looks in vain for any cases on the Jurisdiction and Procedure of the Court of Claims, on the Tucker Act, on Admiralty Jurisdiction, or on Criminal Procedure. Otherwise, the book is comprehensive and exceedingly well arranged under chapter and section headings.

There are 211 cases reported in whole or in part in the text. Of these 176 are decisions in the Supreme Court of the United States; 15 are decisions of the old Circuit Courts; 16 are decisions of the new Circuit Courts of Appeals; three are decisions of the District Courts, and one a State Court decision. It is interesting to note that of the 16 Circuit Court of Appeals Cases, 7 are decisions of the Eighth and four of the Seventh Circuit. There are no decisions of the Circuit Court of Appeals of the First, Second, Third or Fourth Circuits.

The annotations and foot-notes have been carefully prepared and are a very valuable supplement to the cases to which they refer.

Frederick A. Whitney.