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'LEGAL REASONING' BY JOHN FARRAR, LAWBOOK CO, 2010

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Professor John Farrar has once again delved into the topic of legal reasoning and the role that it plays in educating the lawyers of the future.

His previous forays into this topic have included the well received *Introduction to Legal Method* (authored in partnership with Tony Dugdale). This most recent offering successfully builds on the previous work, no doubt due to the passing of time and the vast experience gained by the author in his travels between law schools in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

This unique store of experience in teaching law becomes evident shortly after commencing reading. The use of comparative analysis throughout is both instructive and assists the reader in their understanding of the ever evolving nature of the law.

Whilst most texts for early law students can be somewhat simplistic the author here introduces sometimes complex issues facing the wider legal profession (eg legislative reform of personal injury compensation) and is not afraid to do so.

Although an elder in legal academia Professor Farrar is not afraid to tackle the issues faced by the profession in this technological age nor the cross cultural issues of today. He does so by utilising his somewhat unique insight into three separate common law legal systems.

This makes this reference most readable rather than the expected dry text. Using matters that are in the current debate such as the need for a Bill of Rights in Australia will no doubt keep the early scholars interest. So will the extensive use of practical examples.

All too often texts of this nature can become bogged down in a mire of theoretical analysis, this is certainly not the case here. Reflective of his teaching style Professor Farrar has provided a resource that is expressed in plain English, the catchword of modern legal academics, and, as he hopes in his preface, will engage the interest of the modern law student.

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As identified by the author, this text is a perfect resource for the introduction of our common law system to those lawyers not conversant with it. The author hopes that this is especially so for European lawyers and those from South East Asia. I am sure it will.

I suggest that this book will be a useful tool in the kitbag of legal academia trying to explain otherwise foreign processes to early degree law students and a necessary resource for those students as they continue on their academic studies.