

Book reviews

Intellectual Property and Innovation

by William van Caenegem

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This is a useful, user-friendly legal textbook.

In his preface, the author says that he aims to 'bridge the gap between the specifics of law and underlying theory and policy questions, something that is now increasingly attempted in the literature.' The book does this: it succeeds in setting out subject matter in a form that is both easily detected and digested. Almost every paragraph is preceded by a bold, square bracketed phrase that summarises the content of the sentences that follow. Relevant Acts, cases, rules and tests are described clearly; the structure of the work is logical and the overall tone of the work is neutral.

Limited to the industrial innovation-related areas of IP, the book covers intellectual property (IP) that is related to both innovation in function and innovation in appearance. It is, broadly, divided into sections concerning IP and innovation, IP and entertainment and IP and reputation.

After an introduction about the conceptual underpinnings of IP and innovation, including property and proprietary rights theories, the chapters in the work deal with trade secrets; patents; copyright and designs; and, *sui generis* regimes and trade mark registration.

Comparative analysis of each area dealt with is undertaken, to an extent, within each chapter. For instance, as well as its relationship to designs law, copyright is considered in the context of the innovation patent.

The perspective of the book seems to be geared towards that of a private firm/practitioner who needs to apply the law. Questions that the engaged reader would be likely to ask are anticipated within the text. Having said that, true to the aim of the book expressed in the preface and excerpted above, the rationales underlying most areas of the law considered in the work are given before the explanation of their operation. Similarly, some critical analysis of the law is included (the author observes that more one area, for instance, is 'rather surreal').

Where the book is especially strong, and may be particularly useful for students and practitioners, is in its descriptions and explanations about recent reforms made in each of the areas of IP law.

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