

BOOK REVIEW

THE LAW OF LEGAL SERVICES

By John Gould

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FOR ALL BRANCHES OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION: A MODERN, UP TO DATE GUIDE TO LEGAL SERVICES, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON RISK MANAGEMENT

An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers

Published recently by Jordan Publishing Limited, this is an important new work of reference on legal services aimed primarily at assisting lawyers in identifying and mitigating the legal risks they face in the practice of their profession.

‘And quite apart from that,’ as the President of the Supreme Court, Lord Neuberger remarks in the Foreword, ‘given that it is the job of lawyers to advise others in relation to principles and rules, the public justifiably expects lawyers to know the principles and rules governing their own profession.’

‘The function of lawyers,’ he adds, ‘is to deal with legal issues and therefore have nowhere much to hide if they fail to know of, or observe their own regulatory rules.’

One could add here, that for solicitors as well as barristers, the ‘regulatory rules’ referred to are so extensive and often complex, that it is a relief to know that thanks to author John Gould and his team of expert contributors, this authoritative, yet easy to follow and up-to-date guide is now available.

‘The book is designed to be accessible to lawyers who are not themselves specialists in the areas which it covers,’ says John Gould. Much of the content is more pertinent to solicitors than to barristers, although obviously there is considerable overlap. There are also a number of sections applicable to barristers specifically. In the two final chapters, for example, on lawyers’ fees and business structures, there are certain obvious parallels which are discussed in detail.

In all, there are thirteen chapters covering such areas as the regulatory framework, including that which applies to solicitors, barristers and licensed conveyancers as well as trade mark and patent attorneys and notaries. Subsequent chapters cover a wide area of issues, from authorization and compliance with regulatory codes, to misconduct, supervision and enforcement, tribunals, client contact, fiduciary duties, negligence, indemnity insurance and compensation funds.

Extensively footnoted and written in an accessible style, the book also excels as a research resource, with detailed index, tables of cases, statutes, statutory instruments and professional conduct rules. Particularly useful is the appendix which lists

the resources available on the dedicated website which supports this title. The book with its accompanying web resources certainly offers value for money and no doubt will come to be regarded as an indispensable addition to the well stocked practitioner library.

The publication date is cited as at July 2015 with the law stated as at 1st May 2015 with subsequent cases and changes included where possible.