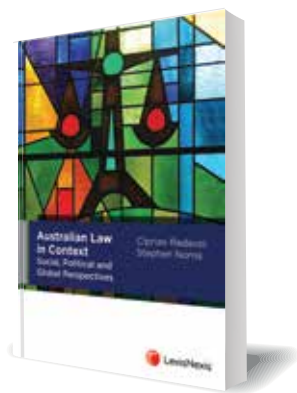


IN_PRINT

This month's books cover statutory interpretation, Australian law and its development, the law of tracing and the life and times of Maurice Blackburn.



Australian Law in Context: Social, Political and Global Perspectives

Ciprian Radavoi, Stephen Norris, LexisNexis, 2020, pb \$90

Law is not simply a set of predictable rules, but also a product of history, prevailing values in society, and the conscious or unconscious impact of matters such as race, gender, class and politics which “contextualise” the essence, interpretation and application of law. The preface indicates some interesting insights on issues, eg, Gillian Triggs sees law as being primarily about fairness; former US president Barack Obama, when considering the qualities of a new appointment to the Supreme Court, de-emphasised the importance of eminent learning, in the face of greater attributes as to “how the world works in a practical sense” and “empathy”.

Equipping students and practitioners alike, any person interested in law has much to learn and appreciate from the broad discussion of ideas this book canvasses. Importantly, the book has an Australian context, with great scholarship on the history and uniqueness of Australian law, issues of Aboriginal rights, and the place of Australia in a globalised world. More modern issues are also explained, such as the emergence of a global economy, the transnational nature of the company, and the rise of the algorithm in all aspects of life, including law.

This book is both a great reference and learning tool to a vast arena of history, ideas and movements on all sides, with a dispassionate and even-handed presentation of the myriad social, economic, political, philosophical and power relationships that underpin our legal system, consciously or otherwise. This book presents a pantheon of ideas in a readable and admirably concise way, which hopefully opens our eyes to the fact that law is a work in progress.

David Parker, sessional law lecturer