

INTRODUCTION

This seventh edition of *Contracts and the Legal Environment for Engineers and Architects* attempts to provide a number of improvements, based upon the comments of faculty and other users of the text. Instructors who have previously used the sixth edition will observe that the order in which material is presented in the text has been changed. To assist such instructors, a new preparatory section has been added which includes a mapping of new chapters and sections to old. This should assist in revamping reading assignments in your course syllabus.

Another issue raised by many instructors and users of the text has been the growth of footnotes within the text. While this format is common to students of law and legal texts, it is less common to students of engineering. An effort has thus been made to incorporate a number of the more important footnotes into the textual material, redacting the remainder. However, for the instructor who desires to have access to, or direct students to, these additional footnotes, such are provided in another new section to this Instructor's Manual.

This Instructor's Manual for the seventh edition is designed primarily to assist instructors without extensive legal training in the use of *Contracts and the Legal Environment for Engineers and Architects*. It consists of suggested solutions to the questions for discussion found at the end of each chapter. Some instructors may prefer to review the questions for discussion with their classes at the end of each chapter, but the author has had good results and livelier classes by assigning the students to read a particular chapter and then spending the class time asking the questions for discussion and soliciting student responses to them.

Whatever the format, a few words of caution are in order. Questions of law often have no definitive answers; some arguments are simply better than others. Thus, the solutions included herein do not purport to be "answers" in the normal sense of the word. They are at most suggestions of plausible solutions and the instructor should do nothing to discourage students from suggesting alternate or even contrary approaches. If these solutions provoke a rational discussion of the problem at hand they will have served their purpose.

As well, one must be conscious of the fact that reality is not broken down into distinct chapters. Thus, the resolution of a case dealing with a point of construction contract law may turn on a question of evidence, credibility of a witness, or even a totally extra-legal consideration. An early recognition that our legal system is a tapestry of many threads and one highly dependent on human and subjective factors will make the seeming unpredictability of result in a particular case somewhat more palatable.

Because of these factors it was with considerable trepidation that the author attempted a solutions manual at all. If solutions to particular questions for discussion prove inadequate or misleading in actual use the author would much appreciate advice such that future printings can be improved.

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