

6-1-1952

AMERICAN LABOR UNIONS. By Florence Peterson. Revised Edition. New York: Harper and Brothers Publisher, 1952.

James C. Vadakin

Follow this and additional works at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr>

Recommended Citation

James C. Vadakin, *AMERICAN LABOR UNIONS*. By Florence Peterson. Revised Edition. New York: Harper and Brothers Publisher, 1952., 6 U. Miami L. Rev. 639 (1952)

Available at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr/vol6/iss4/26>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Institutional Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Miami Law Review by an authorized administrator of Institutional Repository. For more information, please contact library@law.miami.edu.

ice through a government agency. Even if we admit the inadequacies of salaries in the higher positions, the possibility of stagnating on a plateau of mediocrity, the lack of personal recognition, job insecurity, red tape, and the multitude of bosses, there are many overbalancing assets that produce a favorable net worth for many people who, by training, experience, and temperament, are best suited for government service. Whatever the final decision, it would seem unwise to reject possibilities in federal, state and local government before making a careful analysis of the facts regarding employment in this extensive and expanding field. No one is able to present within the covers of one small book all the information pertinent to the use of legal training in government service and still maintain a pleasantly informal style of writing with a personal appeal to the individual reader. The author has admirably achieved the latter purpose; the former leaves nothing to be desired in a preliminary general survey. Throughout the book, there are many references to original sources of information and current evaluations of specific job opportunities.

According to Professor Redden's definition, every area of vocational activity might be classed as a field allied to that of the law. In fact, "there is no endeavor in which the exercise of legal training could not be successfully used." A few vocational fields such as law teaching, law librarianship, legal editing, publishing, and selling, estate planning, court reporting, and brokerage business counseling, are given special consideration in the closing chapters of the book as examples of the many ways in which the resourceful and imaginative graduate can make profitable application of his legal training.

PETER J. VANDER-LINDEN

SENIOR VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL
COUNSELOR, GUIDANCE CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

LET JUSTICE BE DONE. By James Morfit Mullen. Philadelphia: Dorrance & Company, 1952. Pp. 371. \$3.00.

No man can serve two masters; a lawyer should not let other interests lessen his allegiance to his client; an author who has two purposes should write two books. Unfortunately, Mr. Mullen, while a lawyer for more than forty years, as an author did not realize that that principle is valid in literature as well as in business and law.

The first four chapters are of interest primarily to the legal profession, and a young lawyer may find some vicarious experience in the varied incidents of an attorney's relationships with his clients, adversaries, judges and witnesses. Nine chapters of incidents and ideas in five fields of law, chancery and law courts, written law and technicalities (all in 197 pages), might

attract the layman if only for glimpses of the law as it is in practice but would probably bore a lawyer. A slight chapter on army court-martial experiences in World War I, and sketchy descriptions and observations as to conscientious objectors, lawyers' social and professional gatherings, and the A.B.A. trip to England in 1924, bring the book to its "finis." Here we find the source of the portentous title in the motto, "Let justice be done, though the heavens may fall."

Lacking in descriptive color, in characterization either of the author or of the other people involved, and written in a readable old-fashioned style, this book fails to create "humor, pathos or emotion" and adds little to our knowledge of the vagaries of human nature. Justice calls for a motion to table this well-meant but mistaken endeavor to use a writing ability skilled in pleadings and briefs but untrained in developing a narrative or theme so as to hold the attention of a paying reader. The book may have some value to show students as well as practitioners the great difference between law and literature. If the motion is granted, we need not be concerned about the heavens.

RICHARD W. RODGERS

MEMBER DADE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN LABOR UNIONS. By Florence Peterson. Revised Edition. New York: Harper and Brothers Publisher, 1952. Pp. 220. \$3.50.

The publication of the revised edition of *American Labor Unions*, by Florence Peterson, is indeed a most welcome event to those interested in understanding the organization and operation of American trade unions. The original edition, published in 1945, enjoyed widespread acceptance among students of labor relations. By taking account of the numerous important changes which have transpired in the intervening seven years, and by adding several new chapters, the author has succeeded in producing a book which is truly an outstanding and much needed contribution.

American Labor Unions is essentially a reference book encompassing the important aspects of labor unions in the United States. Part I of the book is a brief survey of the American labor movement from its inception up to the present time. Part IV deals with the relationships between unions and employers, and includes an excellent account of collective bargaining, the economic weapons of unions, and the various methods of settling disputes. Since these are matters which have been exhaustively treated in many other publications, the author succeeds, albeit purposely, only in providing a concise yet surprisingly comprehensive summary. It is in the other sections of the book that the author deserves our highest praise. Part II comprises an explanation of the structural relationships between the various national and international unions and their constituent locals, and between the nationals and internationals and their parent organizations, the AFL