

December 1958

Masthead Volume 61, Issue 1

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Recommended Citation

Masthead Volume 61, Issue 1, 61 W. Va. L. Rev. (1958).

Available at: <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr/vol61/iss1/1>

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West Virginia Law Review

Published by the College of Law of West Virginia University. Official
publication of The West Virginia Bar Association.

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STUDENT NOTE

AN EXAMPLE OF INDUCTIVE REASONING

The usual method of case determination in the United States is by use of the syllogistic, or deductive, reasoning process. In this process, fact is built on fact, the line of reason progresses from the general to the particular, and a particular result is finally determined which stands, figuratively speaking, as the topstone in a pyramidal legal structure. Occasionally, however, the reverse process is used by the courts. This happens rarely, and in most instances results in a legal structure wherein the foundation stones are shaky and apt to topple. The particular name applied to the latter process is reason by induction, *i.e.*, reasoning from the particular to the general. More correctly, for present purposes, the process might be differentiated from that described above in that the topstone is suspended in air, and legal buttresses are then moved underneath to keep the topstone in place.