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## The Law and Practice in Bankruptcy

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## BOOK REVIEW

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THE LAW AND PRACTICE IN BANKRUPTCY. By William M. Collier. Thirteenth Edition. By Frank B. Gilbert and Fred E. Rosbrook. Albany, New York: Matthew Bender & Co. 1923.

Collier's work on Bankruptcy has been and continues to be, probably the most used reference and text on this subject. The first edition was published soon after the Bankruptcy Act of 1898 and this work has been revised at intervals of about two years each since that time. Among those who have contributed largely to the revision of Collier are Frank B. Gilbert, of the Albany Bar and Fred E. Rosbrook, of the Rochester Bar, and these two men have collaborated, in conjunction with the author, in the preparation of the last two editions. The thirteenth edition is much larger in volume and in text than any one of the preceding editions. The twelfth edition was composed of but two volumes and about one-half as many pages. This expansion is, in a large measure, due to the addition of about two hundred and sixty new forms, volume three being given over entirely to forms. Volume four contains much of the same material used in the former editions.

The general arrangement of the text, forms, etc., in the various volumes is shown in the following synopsis:

Vol. 1. pp. 1-1014. Covering sections 1-43 follows the Bankruptcy Act of 1898, as amended by all later acts, taking each section of that act in its regular order and treating it as a statute with all citations to decided cases given in the footnotes.

Vol. 2. pp. 1015-2037, sections 44-72, concluding the treatment of the text of the statute as begun in Vol. 1 and in addition containing the General Orders in Bankruptcy adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States at the October Term, 1898, the same system of cross references and copious annotations being employed. An additional feature of Vol. 2 which was not included in previous editions is the Time Table of Procedure (pp. 1856-1858 incl.). Pages 1859-2037 contain the index to Volumes 1 and 2.

Vol. 3. pp. 2039-2902 is devoted to Forms and having indices in both front and rear to the nearly five hundred forms contained therein.

Vol. 4. pp. 2903-4119, is composed of Rules and Acts, a table of Cases under the various Bankruptcy Acts and the General Index.

Many reviews have been written concerning the former editions of this work and it will suffice to deal briefly with some of the notable new phases of this the thirteenth edition.

The Time Table of Procedure found in Volume 2 consists of three pages (1856-7-8). The arrangement is very concise and workable, the general plan being first a statement of the matter considered followed by the time allowed for the filing, appeal, time of hearing, etc., as the case may be, and this in turn followed by the reference to the particular section of the Bankruptcy Act or General Orders, Statute at Large, etc., and finally the reference to the page of the text at which the item is treated. From the practitioner's standpoint this Time Table of Procedure is probably the most valuable addition to the work, for it contains questions which are frequently arising and upon which an extended study or search should not be necessary.

The entire work has undergone a revision both in form and in substance although it may be said that more attention has been given to form, that is rhetorical form, than to substance. This is probably accounted for because of the fact that few additions of changes have been made to the substance of the statute since the twelfth edition was published.

Another feature of the latest edition is the copious annotation, giving references to decided cases and also frequently quoting the language of the court on the point in question. This is not entirely new however for former editions have been well annotated.

This edition has brought all annotations and revisions of the law down to the date of the publication and the publishers announce that in order to have a cumulative supplement and revision service, a monthly supplement in pamphlet form will be issued which will be followed by semi-annual and annual bound volumes.

An adverse criticism might be offered regarding the physical side of the work, especially as to the binding which is rather light in weight and possibly will not withstand hard service or shelf wearing; also as to the number of volumes. The writer has consulted several attorneys using the thirteenth edition and all have expressed themselves as favoring the more compact two volume form of the twelfth edition.

These matters of physical appearance are of but slight importance and detract but little from the desirability, and certainly not at all from the substance, of this last and most complete edition of a most practical and comprehensive work on the text and practice of the law of bankruptcy.

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