

user-driven and open to suggestions.

Subscriptions to the print version of *Mealey's Litigation Report: Copyright* run \$700 a year (which translates to \$58 per issue). An additional, second subscription for your office is available at half price. Internet version subscriptions are \$840 a year (translating to \$70 per issue). A combination subscription will cost you \$1,050 per year. You can easily subscribe to any of the above combinations at Mealey's web site (www.mealeys.com).

Long treated as the poor stepchild of intellectual property, copyright law has become increasingly important. With the growth of companies' use of e-commerce, the brouhaha over file sharing of music, and all things Internet-related, this publication will certainly be a welcome addition to any intellectual property collection.

— Alyson Danowski, Senior Legal Assistant,
Collier, Shannon, Scott, Washington, DC

INTERNET LAW

World Internet Law Report. Joel Kolko, ed. 2002. BNA International. Newsletter. 40p. ISSN: 1468-4438. \$925 per year.

BNA International's *World Internet Law Report* is the type of publication you have come to expect from BNA: an excellent resource with a relatively high price tag. Now in its third volume, this publication offers news, case reports, commentary, and international developments. If you have clients with an Internet presence (and who doesn't these days), it's imperative that you stay as informed as possible on the rapidly evolving areas of Internet law and e-commerce. As stated in a BNA promotional brochure, "[I]f you're involved in electronic business, you're involved in global business. Another country's laws could be invoked by your activities."

This monthly journal contains succinct reports from all over the globe on issues affecting Internet law and e-commerce. The print issues I reviewed were 40 pages long in a two-column format. Articles ran anywhere from a half a column to two or more columns. Reports on U.S. cases and news were

... an excellent resource ...

the most abundant, but the rest of the world is also included: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Somalia, South Korea, The Netherlands, and the U.K. Reports also include United Nations and European

Union news.

One deficiency of the publication is that while it does provide case synopses and commentary, the fulltext cases are not available. The complete citation is there, but researchers will need to go elsewhere for the full opinion.

Because it deals with Internet law, it should come as no surprise that subscriptions are available for both print and electronic versions. You can order at BNA International's web site, www.bnai.com. For U.S. subscribers, the print publication will cost you \$850 a year, while the Internet version is \$925 (that's about \$70 and \$77 per monthly issue, respectively). Interestingly, the two-year subscription "discount" price is the same for either version — \$1,665 (which breaks down to roughly \$69 per month). Personally, I feel the price is a bit high. Subscribing to various free e-mail news alerts provides almost the same information. The true value to this publication would be in its indexing. As a researcher, the deluge of news bites has become almost overwhelming and trying to maintain some kind of order over it, for purposes of later research, has become unwieldy. I would find any indexing on international Internet law news and cases welcome.

— Alyson Danowski, Senior Legal Assistant,
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LEGAL PROFESSION

Elusive Innocence: Survival Guide for the Falsely Accused. Dean Tong. 2002. Huntington House. Softcover. 278p. ISBN: 1-56384-190-8. \$15.99.

It is difficult to imagine anything more painful than being falsely accused of abusing one's own children. Once accused there seems to be no effective way of proving one's innocence or removing the stigma associated with child abuse. To make matters worse, the system often does more damage to the very people for whom all the protections were put in place, namely, the children. In *Elusive Innocence: Survival Guide for the Falsely Accused*, author Dean Tong leads readers through a nightmarish account of vengeful spouses, inept social workers, interminable court proceedings, and mental illness. Directed to a wide audience from defense attorneys to teachers, this book is an excellent introduction to the problems presented by accusations of child abuse, how the various parties and the legal system respond to these accusations, and also suggests ways of countering these accusations.

The author begins by telling the stories of four men accused of sexually abusing their children. Tong provides enough details to give readers a glimpse of the frustration and helplessness experienced by these men as they attempt to maintain contact with their children, while defending themselves against the

New Sources

charges leveled against them.

Perhaps it is too easy for lawyers and other professionals to get bogged down in the procedural aspects of cases or the legal issues involved, while ignoring the gut-wrenching experience of the accused and the purported victims. You do not have to agree with all of Tong's arguments to arrive at his conclusion that there must be a better way of handling child abuse accusations, while attempting to ensure the safety of the children.

Tong devotes chapters to each of the major players: the accused, the accusers, the agencies, and the courts. Readers will find a wealth of references to independent studies, cases, legal principles, and statutory law. There are 10 helpful appendixes detailing these resources. He provides a good, although brief, introduction to a number of the different psy-

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chological tests used to evaluate the accused, the victims, and the accusers. In one entire chapter, he focuses on the use of anatomical dolls and how they are typically misused during evaluations of the victims.

Tong believes that people accused of child abuse are considered guilty from the very beginning. He chronicles his repeated encounters with judges, social workers, and the general public whose minds were seemingly made up prior to any evidence being offered. Tong critiques, on the one hand, the reliance on shaky hearsay evidence in court proceedings to seal the fate of the accused, while, on the other hand, the exclusion of the results of professionally prepared psychological tests that suggest the incapacity of the accused to commit child abuse or question the mental soundness of the accusers. He discusses both the Frye and Daubert tests for the admissibility of scientific evidence and how the application of these tests has produced inconsistent results in the courts.

While reading this book, readers should keep in mind that Tong has gone through the harrowing experience of being accused of abusing his own children. At times, he appears to be unjustly harsh in his criticism of the legal system and the state agencies charged with protecting children. How-

ever, he does not claim to be a dispassionate observer, and his sense of outrage permeates the entire work. Legal professionals, social workers, legislators, and others dealing with these issues would do well to heed his plea for justice for the accused. Ruining the lives of the falsely accused is a heavy price to pay in order to further the goal of protecting children from harm. *Elusive Innocence: Survival Guide for the Falsely Accused* is not a perfect book, but it is a good starting point for investigation of false accusations.

— Christopher A. Vallandingham, Electronic Information and Reference Librarian, University of Florida, Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

The Law Firm Guide to Client Relations for Support Staff. Hollis Hatfield Weishar. 2002. American Bar Association, Law Practice Management Section. E-book. 19p. \$9.95.

I was excited when I saw this title on the list of items "to be reviewed." Finally, someone writing for that large group of people in law firms that support attorneys. There are manuals for secretaries and several books and periodicals for legal assistants, but very little for the entire group of non-lawyers. Add to that the specific issue of client relations and service and you are down to a few articles (a quick search on LegalTrac produced three).

The Law Firm Guide to Client Relations for Support Staff is the first electronic book issued by the ABA's Law Practice Management Section. Booklet may be a better word since what you buy at the section's Web page is a 19-page PDF file — more than a pamphlet, but definitely not a book. A booklet is defined as usually having a paper cover, which this does not unless the buyer provides it. And that brings up the issue of reviewing an electronic book. All the physical features you want to mention (size, paper quality, and cover illustrations) are not there. Those tangibles perhaps should not sway your opinion, but often do just that. With an e-book you are stuck with only the text printed on your own cheap copy paper. But that's okay, since content is the important part.

Since the guide is only 19 pages, there is no table of contents, index, preface, introduction, or foreword to comment on. None of those are necessary, but the copy I saw did not have a title page, and it needed one. The first three paragraphs on the first page function as a preface or introduction stating clearly the guide will provide non-lawyer office staff with information about the changing legal environment and how they can help improve the way legal services are delivered.