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This is a published version of the following:

Book Review of *The Law of Contracts*, 5th ed by S.M. Waddams

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2006

This book review was originally published in *Canadian Law Library Review*, available online through:

<http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/callb31&id=257&collection=journals&index=journals/callb>

Citation for this paper:

Kim Nayer, "Book Review of *The Law of Contracts*, 5th ed by S.M. Waddams" (2006) 31:5 *Can L Libr Rev* 260.

to offer his own criticisms of current contract law doctrine along with suggestions for future development, keeping these distinct from the exposition.

In my view, McCamus's efforts are successful. The book is thorough, well-organized, and is written in a manner that makes the subject-matter accessible. As well, it contains some extras such as the earlier mentioned chapter on restitution and the very helpful references to resources that are non-traditional but often invaluable sources of further information. At the time of this writing, this book is not offered among Irwin Law's digital editions. Like other titles in the *Essentials of Canadian Law* series, *The Law of Contract* offers good value for its price. In my opinion, this book is even more appealing and, at over 1000 pages, covers the subject-matter in greater depth and breadth than I expected of a title in this series. I consider it a welcome addition to the Canadian literature on contract law and to the collection of any Canadian law library.

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The Law of Contracts. By S.M. Waddams. 5th ed. Toronto: Canada Law Book, 2005. clxxxvi, 589 pp. Includes bibliographic references, table of cases, table of statutes, index. ISBN 0-88804-450-X (hardcover) \$160.00.

This fifth edition of Waddams's text on contract law, written six years after the previous edition and nearly forty years after the first, continues to satisfy expectations. The text is a comprehensive treatment of contract law, but also presents an analytical discourse of various elements of the subject. Rather than merely outlining rules of contract law supported by case or statute authority, Waddams offers a discussion of the origins of legal rules in the context of social forces and historical events. This presentation should make this book an interesting and useful starting point for researchers and serious students of contract law and also support an understanding of the rationales for the development of current contract law principles.

Waddams maintains the structure that has been used in previous editions, but which may be unexpected or non-intuitive to newer readers of the Waddams text. The book's chapters are organized into six parts: Introduction, Enforceability, Contracts and Third Parties, Excuses for Non-Performance, Capacity, Remedies. The Introduction is brief but presents useful substantive information about historical contract law developments and attitudes as well as newer topical issues such as consumer protection legislation and restitution in avoidance of unjust enrichment by defective contracts.

This edition again offers numerous case references, presented in 150 or so pages in the Table of Cases. I was pleased to see the use of the neutral citation standard included among the multiple citations for some newer cases.

The well-organized table of contents and index usefully reference paragraph numbers. I have found this feature quite helpful both for finding the pertinent sections of the text and in referencing them in a memo or factum.

As well, the index has been designed in such a way that the researcher should be able to find discussions pertaining to a chosen topic even if the language in which the topic is described or the place of the topic in the book is different than expected. An example which I noted in a review of the fourth edition of this text continues to be applicable: the index entry for *consensus ad idem*, often considered a basic element of a contract, refers to three paragraphs in the text. However, in two of these paragraphs that phrase is not used at all, although the concepts represented by it are discussed. Thus, the index usefully points the researcher to a discussion of the concept even though it is not expressed in the terms familiar to the researcher.

When comparing the Waddams text with the new McCamus text on contracts (reviewed above), it is clear that, whereas the styles of the books differ, each of these authors brings a deep and intimate understanding of contract law to his work. Both not only outline the principles and their supporting authority, but also delve into the background and policy that influenced their development, and may influence further development.

The Waddams text should belong in any Canadian law library collection of contract law. Students are likely to find it a valuable resource in understanding contract law principle and policy, whereas practitioners may find it of assistance in developing reasoned arguments or opinions on various contracts issues. Researchers from both these groups will be able to use this text to more fully understand the underpinnings of many contracts principles and issues. I myself gained a renewed appreciation for the previous edition when conducting research on several matters last year. Because it does not seem intended to offer the quick, quotable answers which a lawyer may want for a factum, Waddams likely should not stand as a practitioner's library's only contract law text. Nevertheless, it should be an important component of any law library and, in my view, an excellent resource for understanding contract law and its directions.

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Prestatehood Legal Materials: A Fifty State Research Guide. Edited by Michael Chiorazzi and Marguerite Most. New York: Haworth Information Press, 2005. 2 vols. 1500p. Includes index. ISBN 0-7890-2082-3 (Hardcover, v.1) 0-7890-2083-1 (Hardcover, v.2) US \$199.95.

One of the things I have always loved about librarianship is the enthusiasm librarians generally have for their profession. So much of what we do is behind the scenes.