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# Federal Administrative Law (American Casebook Series)



## Synopsis

This casebook emphasizes current doctrine and its historical evolution in exploring the four basic foundations of federal administrative law: separation of powers, statutorily- and constitutionally-required procedures for agency adjudication and rulemaking, scope of judicial review of agency action, and the availability and timing of judicial review. The book concentrates on federal rather than state administrative law in order to provide the fundamental knowledge and concepts necessary to understand the subject, on the belief that an understanding of federal law can be translated into other settings. The book also maintains the straightforward organization and don't-hide-the-ball presentation that has characterized the book since its inception. The Seventh Edition contains five new principal cases, eight major new note cases, ten shorter new note cases, and updated treatments of all major topics. It also includes a revised Chapter I that includes an extended treatment of statutory interpretation to accommodate the increasing inclusion of Administrative Law in the first-year curriculum.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm no law professor or administrative law practitioner, but I'm certainly a member of this book's only possible sales demographic - students trying to learn the topic at hand. Therefore I can comment on how truly ineffective this book is as an educational resource. First of all, I'm suspicious of the continued existence of these big expensive leather-bound casebooks, especially when cases and statutes are now available online and usually free to law students. With most of the basic

information herein available elsewhere, the book should help synthesize far-flung and disparate legal documentation so the student can discern the basic structure of the topic. In this regard the book fails, and Gary Lawson's educational style (surprisingly, he really is a law professor) is obtuse and pedantic almost to the point of disrespect for the student. The professor in my class has often disclosed that this textbook deliberately leaves out many details, which he must then supplement from the teaching edition. I'm sure this obscurantism is meant as a pedagogical technique, but it makes much of the book maddeningly difficult for the student trying to prepare for a lecture beforehand. One ridiculous example can be found on page 296, where Lawson introduces "four different tests ..." for a particular administrative law doctrine. The first test is spelled out in the next paragraph, and the second appears two pages later (both by Lawson). However, the third test is embedded in a case ruling three pages later, and the fourth test is embedded in a case ruling seventeen pages later.

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