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Construction, Mechanics' and Materialmen's Liens, The Law in Arkansas

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BOOK REVIEW

At the outset of *Construction, Mechanics' & Materialmen's Liens, The Law in Arkansas*, Glenn E. Pasvogel, Jr. acknowledges his debt to Daniel F. Hinkel, the author of a similar book on Georgia law. The organization of the two books is the same and both books cover the same subject matter. The chapters are divided into consecutively numbered subsections. The footnotes are at the end of each subsection, which is extremely helpful. The order in which Pasvogel presents his material, while not identical, is similar to that of Hinkel, but the text of the Arkansas book is unique and is vintage Pasvogel.

The first chapter is a short, concise history of mechanics' and materialmen's lien laws. It is well worth reading just as a refresher. The book then deals with the substantive law in what I felt was a logical order. The author is able to anticipate the reader's questions and answers them succinctly. Mr. Pasvogel writes extremely readable prose. He has a no-nonsense style that all lawyers will appreciate. When there are no Arkansas cases on point, he says exactly that and then uses sound reasoning in speculating on what the result will be when the question is presented to the Arkansas courts for determination. When the Arkansas cases are conflicting, or as in Section 4-7, "Amount of Mechanics' Lien," inconsistent, Mr. Pasvogel is at his best. His analysis is perceptive and crisp and his conclusions are the result of a skillful examination of the cases.

As an additional bonus, the book contains invaluable forms. The language used in the forms is slightly archaic (this view probably reflects the personal prejudice of the reviewer, who can't help but tinker with forms, even his own). The practitioner will be delighted with the forms and the practical tips contained in the last two chapters, entitled "Representing the Owner" and "Representing the General Contractor."

The index is superb. The forms are incorporated in the text as separate subsections within the appropriate chapters, but they are separately indexed. This is a great help. As I was reading the book, I kept three separate problems in mind and made notations of the subsections which would be on point. The index picked up each pertinent subsection.

In short, you cannot practice or even dabble in lien law without

this book. If you do any mechanics' and materialmen's lien law practice, you must start—and maybe end—with this book. The bench and bar owe another debt to the prolific Glenn E. Pasvogel, Jr. for this fine piece of work.

Isaac A. Scott, Jr.