

materials. One of the publications cited has the abbreviation "GDS," which turns out to be a now defunct Prentice-Hall loose-leaf service, *Government Disclosure Service*, published from October 1979 to October 1983. There is no list of abbreviations of publications cited, so one has to have more than a passing acquaintance with a number of legal publications to take full advantage of the treatment.

All in all, it is a quite readable guidebook, and should prove useful to a host of attorneys out in the real world. The promise of the editors is that annual revisions will keep the material current. That promise, and the ease of use of this volume, make it a handy addition to the shelves of those operating in this area of the law, and also for those who would like to find out more about it.

*John J. Hasko*  
*Associate Law Librarian*  
*Cornell Law School*

SKYLARKS AND LECTERNS: A LAW SCHOOL CHARTER.  
Lansing, Ron. *Port Washington, NY: Huddleston-Brown, 1983.*  
236 pp. \$18.50 (paper). ISBN 0-934355-08-8.

Preamble

Behind every rule of law there are stories — stories of people — human anthology of which the rule is mere reflection. If you remember nothing else, I beg you to remember this: The story becomes the law; the law does not become the story.

— *The Professor*

And so begins the kind of book I swore I would never read — a book about law school. But I am now twelve years out of law school and I needed a remembering.

Professor Lansing has been a teacher at Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College for the past twenty years. He teaches torts, among other courses, with a flair and drama all first-year students appreciate, even if they don't understand! *Skylarks*

*and Lecterns* is written with that same flair. This novel is a lively and engaging picture of law school life set in Welden Hall. It probes a year of law school—the classroom, teaching methods, research, exam taking, study groups, inter-office memo wars, and exam grading. But mostly it is a story of the people caught up in the drama—faculty, students and administrators. Everything from admissions to the classroom to faculty meetings is exposed in a humorous yet insightful way by the author.

This book is heavy with figures of speech—metaphors, similes and personifications. In fact, the reader may have to work hard to get through the first few articles. Once you become accustomed to the style, however, it is fun, fast-moving reading. I found myself laughing out loud many times as Professor Lansing wrote about even the smallest of experiences with wit and perspective.

In one chapter, a faculty member is planning to begin research for a law review article and has gone to the law library.

His left hand held the cards open to an early treatise on presumptions in the law of evidence; his right hand began to jot down the catalog number: “KF8944 . . .” Suddenly the cards slipped from his finger and fell forward closing the incision. It was like getting the license number on a hit and run car that, after inflicting drudgery, had escaped into a stack of look-alikes.

(Hasn't this ever happened to you?)

Later, this same professor reflected that “law libraries were self-perpetuating. They seethed inward. A typical scholarly law book was conceived, gestated and born in the law library.”

In another chapter, after a particularly scathing series of memos about employment interviews at Welden Hall, the final memo garners no response because (as one professor put it), “You just don't load yourself into the spin cycle with a pile of razors.”

This novel, however, is not just about law professors. Dan Stocles, the main student character, is exposed to the Socratic method in an excruciating way early in his first year. “It was the first day of law school, the first class of law school . . .” Professor Laurence asks “Mr. Stocles” to recite the essential facts of a torts case. “He had never been called ‘Mister’ before—not in his entire life, except

perhaps by a nurse in the dentist's office . . . The formality of 'Mr. Stocles' was unnerving." The uncertainty, challenge and frustration of the first year of law school are portrayed through other classroom scenes, the study group, and exam taking, as well as through the eyes of family members and classmates.

Who should read this book? It was written primarily with the prelaw student in mind. However, it is a wonderful book for the nonlaw trained librarian, legal secretary, paralegal or law firm administrator—anyone who works with lawyers and/or law students all the time. The challenge and stress of law school on law students is something all of us need to understand. *Skylarks and Lecterns* can help fill the void. Even those of us who have attended law school will benefit from reading *Skylarks*. It is a fascinating study of the interplay among students, faculty, law school staff—all of whom affect the process and substance of legal education. I highly recommend this book. *Skylarks* is entertaining, educational and very *real*. Perhaps my enchantment with this novel is its ability to give me perspective since I am part of the legal education process. *Skylarks* is an appropriate purchase for all law libraries, public and academic libraries. (As a librarian, I must mention the book's only disadvantage. *Skylarks* is available only in paper and would, consequently, need to be bound if it were to survive the kind of use I think it should get.)

Happy reading!

Penny A. Hazelton  
Professor and Law Librarian  
University of Washington School of Law