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Book Review. Cyberethics: Morality and Law in Cyberspace by R. A. Spinello

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regional differences, federal and state jurisdictional matters, and tribal court issues.

In the minor quibbles department, I have already mentioned the lack of references to secondary materials. Also, I thought an entry for Felix Cohen, author of the first Indian law treatise in 1942, might have been germane; to be fair to Sokolow, he admits in the preface that not every important individual could be included.

This book can safely be recommended to libraries that have need of such a book. I enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed reviewing it.


Reviewed by Elizabeth A. Larson

This ambitious work presents an introductory overview of Internet law from an ethical/public policy perspective. The book begins with an introduction to formalized ethics, which is followed by a history of the Internet and an explanation of how it is (or, rather, is not) currently governed. Each of the remaining chapters is devoted to one of the three main issues comprising Internet law: free speech versus content control, intellectual property, and privacy. Each chapter includes a very brief discussion of a few real cases and their outcomes. The author touts a companion Web site that purports to update the book, but it fails to do so in any meaningful way. I expected to find updates on the cases included in the book and more recent cases deciding each issue, but the site instead merely provides a list of suggested further readings.

The very limited introductory nature of this book prevents me from recommending it to law librarians, as neither law students nor practicing attorneys would find much useful information here. A more appropriate audience would probably be an undergraduate ethics course, a business school class, or a layperson interested in learning about the basic issues in Internet law. Last but not least, several instances of sloppy editing (e.g., a direct quotation with no accompanying citation) add to my hesitation to recommend this book to my colleagues.


Reviewed by John F. Hagemann

It is common these days to read about lawyer burnout or outright dissatisfaction with the practice of law. The authors cite a recent Michigan bar survey show-
ing that “47% of lawyers were dissatisfied with practice and 83% thought about issues related to stress and burnout at least once a month” (p.xiii).

¶69 There is a wealth of books whose target audience is the lawyer who is experiencing that burnout or dissatisfaction. This book is, to my knowledge, the first one that targets those who supervise other lawyers. It flows from the authors’ general observation that “the profession, lawyers, and managers of lawyers place very little emphasis on improving job satisfaction or keeping lawyers in the practice” (p.xiii).

¶70 The book’s thirty chapters are divided among three sections: Lawyers and the Profession, chapters one to six; Learning and Change, chapters seven to twenty-eight; and Separate Gracefully, chapters twenty-nine to thirty. Most of the chapters in the second section conclude with lists of “Best Practice Strategies,” directed to the manager, and “Best Lawyer Strategies,” directed to the new lawyer. As one example, chapter sixteen, “Abundance of Graduates,” attacks rather convincingly the myth of “too many lawyers” (p.87–88). One of the four “Best Practice Strategies” is “Treat all lawyers in your firm as the assets they are. Behave in a manner that makes them feel valued. Don’t treat your lawyers like interchangeable chairs, giving the impression that if one leaves, you’ll just hire another one to replace him” (p.89). One of the three “Best Lawyer Strategies” is “View competition from an abundance of lawyers as a challenge to make yourself stand out in a crowd. Having fewer lawyers available would not increase your business if potential clients did not know about you” (p.89).

¶71 Six appendixes, an afterword, a biographical authors note, a bibliography, and an index complete the book. The appendixes include: Sample Associate Development Plan, Drafting an Effective Mission Statement, Vision Mapping, Clearly Defining a Successful Plan, More Strategies, and How to Be a Happy Lawyer. The index is well done. The bibliography is adequate but not exhaustive.

¶72 This book belongs in the library of any law firm, regardless of size. Both managing partners of large firms and small office lawyers who supervise associates can profit from this book.


Reviewed by Janet Reinke

 ¶73 Congressional Quarterly’s Desk Reference on the Presidency is especially suitable for public libraries, school libraries, and undergraduate libraries. It is not a scholarly work, but a ready reference publication for use in answering fact-