Expulsion or Oppression of Business Associates - "Squeeze-Outs" in Small Enterprises, by F. Hodge O'Neal and Jordan Derwin

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In French practice it is true that judges are prohibited from pronouncing general rules when they have cases before them, but we see also that an elaborate apparatus has been established to assist the Court of Cassation to maintain uniformity of its decisions. The central index of decisions created in 1947 has grown into an organization manned by a score of persons of magisterial rank. In addition, the first president of the court may call into being an assemblée plénière composed of at least fifteen of the senior members of the court when he feels it is necessary in order to avoid contrariety of decisions. It is appropriate that a court charged with securing the uniformity of the law should concern itself with keeping its precedents in order.

Professor Tedeschi discusses the various methods for the study and preparation of legislative codes and the multitude of problems and viewpoints that become involved when one tries to work out a national law in an area in which many diverse historical influences have had their play. The chapter on the relation of the religious and the secular in a state that does not proclaim secularism probes fundamental questions of great interest.

There is a danger that a reader with presuppositions about a legal system that differs greatly from those of his author will misread the author's text. This reviewer has taken care to avoid that danger, but if he has in fact succeeded, much of that success must be credited to Professor Tedeschi's understanding of the kind of law with which this reviewer is familiar. Professor Tedeschi is stimulating; the need exists for an English edition of his Studies in Private Law.

Gerald L. Kock


This comprehensive study on the causes of and remedies against oppression or elimination of partners or stockholders in small business indicates in his note 55 on page 133, this reviewer does not agree with Professor Tedeschi's statement of the new rule. For accurate discussion of the Williams case, supra, see Guild, Stranger Attack on Sister-State Decrees of Divorce, 24 U. Chi. L. Rev. 376 (1957).

36. French Civil Code, Art. 5.
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organizations was prepared under a research grant from the Small Business Administration pursuant to the Small Business Investment Act of 1958.\textsuperscript{1} It is clearly written, meticulously and laboriously documented, with a multitude of litigated cases and references to pertinent writings on the subject.

The book is divided into eight chapters and an appendix, the first chapter setting forth the scope of the study. Chapter II, entitled “Underlying Causes of Squeeze-Outs,” treats and makes easy to understand, by the use of illuminating examples and case citations, both the motives and the causes for corporate or partnership dissension within small business concerns which ultimately lead to squeeze-outs or attempted squeeze-outs of company members. This is followed by a presentation, in Chapters III, IV and V, of the various possible “Squeeze-Out Techniques,” listing an appalling variety of possibilities available to a \textit{mala fide} businessman desirous of obtaining unfair advantages over his business associate or associates. These techniques are elaborated in a general discussion accompanied by particularized explanations and examples of application.

Chapter VI specializes in “Squeeze-Outs in Partnerships,” although the devices signalled therein are, in most cases, equally usable in corporations and other forms of business associations.

The defensive weaponry against the evils reviewed in the previous chapters is dealt with in Chapter VII, and Chapter VIII is \textit{de lege ferenda}. Drawing upon British and Irish experience, it covers in detail desirable legislative measures which might reduce the abuses signalled in the preceding chapters.

The Appendix contains four case histories, developed in detail, which make interesting reading; but add little to the general understanding of the subject since the book is sufficiently lucid without them.

The title of the book suggests an area where advice is in demand. It is, in fact, for this reason that the Small Business Administration found it in the public interest to encourage its writing. “Directed both to owner-managers of small businesses and to the legal specialists who serve them,”\textsuperscript{2} the book admirably accomplishes this purpose. While it uncovers no new material, it forcefully alerts the small businessman to the necessity of seeking legal advice of competent counsel before entering into any business transaction, rather than bottom his future business relationships solely on trust and confidence, as experience shows he does. Regarding services to attorneys, it is a valuable handbook saving much research time.

\textsuperscript{2} Preface.
and effort for the general law practitioner who is faced with a squeeze-out or oppression question.

The legal problems involved in partner-copartner and majority-minority stockholder relationships are passed in review by way of citation of and reference to litigated cases, and emphasis is placed upon the principle that transactions between partners, if they are to stand, must be characterized by the utmost of good faith and full disclosure of material facts. The book does not contain a discussion of the remedies available to a businessman who desires to rid himself of a dishonest or otherwise obnoxious associate, nor does it underscore the fact that none of the squeeze-out techniques discussed in this book are really effective, in that equity has proved itself sufficiently vigilant to frustrate the machinations of the schemer in practically every case cited by the authors.

This is a valuable and handy "how-to" manual, which will add to both the understanding of squeeze-out and oppression problems, as well as of the armory of weapons against them. Both businessman and lawyer using the book are likely to find most of their questions answered.

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