

1945

Book Review (reviewing Charles S. Rhyne, Airports and the Courts (1944))

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Recommended Citation

George Gleason Bogert, "Book Review (reviewing Charles S. Rhyne, Airports and the Courts (1944))," 13 University of Chicago Law Review 130 (1945).

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Airports and the Courts. By Charles S. Rhyne. Washington: National Institute of Municipal Law Officers, 1944. Pp. viii, 222. \$5.00.

This little volume, prepared by the counsel of the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers, will be of great use not only to city and county officers and employees but also to legislators, federal and state commissioners of aviation, and lawyers for airlines, and for the public in general. It covers Airport Acquisition, including Condemnation; Airport Leases; Airport Regulation; Taxation of Airports; Airspace Rights of Aviators and Landowners; and Airport Approach Protection, including Zoning. Not only is there a brief digest of relevant case law, but also reference to, and discussion of, many state statutes, textbooks, and law-review articles. The arguments on various problems are presented clearly and with skill. In a very short time one is enabled to obtain a bird's-eye view of the present stage of the development of the state and municipal law affecting the establishment and operation of airports. There is no attempt to discuss the federal statute and the regulations issued under it, which are exceedingly important. No city, county, or state can take intelligent action regarding an airport problem without knowing what Congress or the Civil Aeronautics Board has done. The omission of federal material is hard to explain, unless considerations of space and size were controlling.

Pending proposals in Congress for federal aid in the extensive development of an airport program after the war make it probable that a new edition of Mr. Rhyne's valuable book will soon be needed. Perhaps it would be desirable to include in a second edition copies of the various model bills which have been prepared with regard to aeronautics, particularly those which relate to airports and zoning.

The profession is indebted to Mr. Rhyne and the Institute for this practical and able discussion of a rapidly developing legal topic.

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