BOOK REVIEW


Since the first edition of Admiralty Jurisdiction and Practice appeared in 2000, the geographical scope of the contents has steadily increased. This new, significantly expanded, edition now encompasses five important common law shipping jurisdictions of the Asia-Pacific Region: Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia. As a result, all practitioners, whether from the Asia-Pacific Region, the United Kingdom, the United States, South Africa, Europe, or elsewhere, now have access to a very compact, but precise and comprehensive, guide on these jurisdictions. The author, Dr. Damien Creman, is a very prominent Australian barrister and academic who has practiced and taught in the maritime law field for many years.

In the Foreword to this edition, the Hon. James Allsop, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, refers to the importance of the existing harmonious and consistent common law maritime security regime in the Asia-Pacific Region. He goes on to confirm that the countries of the region covered by this edition have acquired a reputation for skill and efficiency in maritime law. In a globalized maritime world this is essential—especially in an increasingly commercially important region.

The book consists of four chapters: (1) Introduction. This includes an examination of the nature and origins of admiralty jurisdiction, as well as an overview of the jurisdictional issues in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia; (2) Courts and Jurisdiction. This chapter looks at the various court actions available as well as more detailed jurisdictional issues; (3) Admiralty Claims. This is one of the key chapters that sets out details on the various admiralty claims and defences available; (4) Practice and Procedure. This extensive chapter examines areas such as practice matters, the right to proceed in rem, and the various, necessary procedural rules.
In addition, the author also provides an extremely useful and practical “Precedents” section that provides guidance on practice areas such as possession, co-ownership, mortgage, damage, personal injuries, cargo claims, charterparties, and salvage. A helpful bibliography, an extensive table of cases and statutes, and a good index are also included.

This is not only a comprehensive work covering some fairly complex areas, but it is also very clearly written by someone with real expertise in the area. As a result, the author provides not only a very helpful analysis of the maritime jurisdictional and practice areas in five Asia-Pacific states, but also a critical examination of problems and shortcomings that may confront practitioners. The book should be an important resource for lawyers, marine insurers, corporations, academics, and anyone with an interest in the maritime law and practice in this commercially important and fast-growing region of the world.

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