

January 1951

Book Notice

Dicta Editorial Board

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Book Notice

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COLORADO ACCIDENT LAW DIGEST. *By Richard D. Hall of the Denver Bar.* Privately Printed, 1950. pp. 268. \$11.50.

Books relating strictly to Colorado law are scarce. The ones—other than compilation of statutes—that have been printed in the last twenty years can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Practitioners in populous states, such as New York, Pennsylvania, and others have the benefit of the publication each year of several law books relating to aspects of the law of their respective states. The lawyers of such states are saved much time from repetitious research into the labyrinth of the case and statute law of their particular jurisdiction by such books.

Colorado lawyers, then, will welcome this worthy addition to the small list of books on Colorado law. The book is what the title says it is: a digest. Pertinent statutes are set out, but the cases are digested, and digested briefly at that. In fact, one using the book for the first time might quarrel with the extreme brevity of the digests of the cases. "Plaintiff" is written "Pltff"; "defendant," "Def"; "judgment," "Judg.," and so on. For brevity's sake, the author frequently does not make complete sentences, particularly where the meaning of his phraseology is obvious and space and time would be wasted by using more words.

The author has digested more than six hundred Colorado cases relating to negligence. It will, perhaps, come as a surprise to learn that there are that many cases in this state on that one subject of torts law. The researcher who goes to the standard digests available to the Colorado lawyer will wonder what titles Mr. Hall looked under to find so many negligence cases.

The division of the book into parts and headings is as utilitarian as it is novel and interesting. The six principal parts of the book are divided as follows: Suits against owners or operators of vehicles; suits against owners or occupants of real estate; suits against businesses and professional men; suits against owners or possessors of personal property; miscellaneous accident suits, and an appendix. By far the largest number of cases come under the first principal part, that is, suits against owners or operators of vehicles. That principal part is divided into twenty-two sub-divisions. The mentioning of a few of such sub-divisions will show the practicality of utility of the authors's classification. For instance, among such twenty-two sub-divisions are the titles: Two car rear-end accidents; two car left-turn accidents; and two car head-on collision accidents.

The sixth principal part of the book—the appendix—is alone worth the price of the entire book. The appendix contains no digest of cases—they appear in the preceding 219 pages. The first

two parts of the appendix deal with jury instructions based on actual Colorado cases. They are followed by a third part which cites, under appropriate headings, cases involving "selected" tort doctrines. There are ten such doctrines listed, some of which are: family car doctrine; last clear chance doctrine; and sudden emergencies doctrine. The last part of the appendix contains a complete table of the cases digested.

The work purports to cover the Colorado Reports, volumes 1 to 120, inclusive, and the Colorado Bar Association Advance Sheets through June, 1950. The author, in his preface, states that pocket parts will be issued every two or three years so as to keep the digest up-to-date.

All in all, your reviewer is of the opinion that Mr. Hall's book will serve as a very useful entree to the Colorado case and statute law of negligence for the busy practitioner.

WILLSON HURT.

THE PLAINTIFF PRO SE

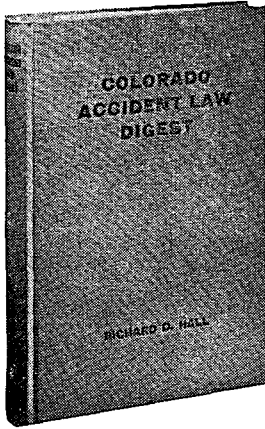
In a case pending before Judge Francis J. Knauss in the Denver District Court, the defendant filed a motion to quash the summons. In connection with this motion, the plaintiff pro se filed a "Reply, and Motion and Request for Hearing," in which it is stated:

That defendant's Motion to Quash Summons cites as grounds therefore non compliance with 'Rule 4 of the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure,' whereas said Rule 4 as cited by defendant's attorney covers a total of fifteen and one-half pages in its entirety as published therein, and that therefore defendant's grounds are pointless, ambiguous, impossible of determination, capricious, superfluous, out of place, dilatory, too pointless to be interpreted in the light of the complete 15 pages devoted to said cited rule, and without the realm of dignified reason and accurate identification or meaning as applied to this Case, and therefore plaintiff verily believes, as it appears, that said Motion was made for the purpose of consuming the time of this plaintiff and of this Honorable Court needlessly and without necessary and true purpose as intended by the laws and rules of these Courts wherein any Citizen may seek reasonably speedy and proper redress when wrongfully damaged.

(The plaintiff in this case demands judgment) of \$52,638.75 plus interest, plus costs herein expended, plus amounts arrived at as due plaintiff from all sources shown herein said case, and all such as determined fairly by this Court as due plaintiff from defendant.

The Denver firm of Stone, Rice and Mancini has been dissolved. Joel E. Stone will continue to maintain his offices in the E. & C. Bldg., while William L. Rice and Francis S. Mancini have removed their offices to the Majestic Bldg. Silvio Bottone, who was associated with the firm, is also retaining offices in the E. & C. Bldg.

COLORADO ACCIDENT LAW DIGEST



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