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1972

## Book Review

Ann Aldrich

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### Recommended Citation

Ann Aldrich, *Book Review*, 21 Clev. St. L. Rev. (1972)

available at <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstrev/vol21/iss1/25>

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election polls. It is, after all, the American voter who will determine the economic affairs, the needs, the wishes of the American public-at-large.

Business can be, and *must* be, entrusted with the responsibility for the resolution of social problems—at least some of them! Some problems, such as education and hospital care, the American people do not want supplied at a business profit. Gradually, however, business has assumed, and is continuing to assume, social responsibility, being aided by the tools which the government and the people are supplying, i.e. subsidies, grants, government contracts, technological advancements, prices and wages, the whole new employment process. Corporate philanthropy is broadening to include the immediate communities in which the corporations are located. It not only includes health, education and welfare, but also racial and cultural activities.

The principal contributions of business to the new humane society are new products and services, along with explorations in housing, transportation, crime prevention, urban redevelopment and medical care, in addition to the technology necessary for the conservation of our natural resources, lakes, air and earth.

The humane society holds greatest promise in those areas that have always been regarded as the sole responsibility of government. Today, however, by government entering into a partnership with business, thereby perfecting this framework, we will mark the most significant endeavor in solving the ills that plague us.

*Reviewed by Ann Aldrich\**

THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW HANDBOOK by Norman J. Landau and Paul D. Rheingold with a Foreword by Ralph Nader). Ballantine/Friends of the Earth (New York 1971) 483 pp.

For a slim \$1.25, Landau and Rheingold have produced a slick paperback which purports to convey to the general public (as well as to the lawyer or law student) the variety of forms in which lawsuits seeking to prohibit or impede current polluters of the environment may be successfully maintained.

With all due respect to Ralph Nader's claim to the contrary, "environmental action" is a phrase which *does* still puzzle both the lawyer and the layman, especially the lawyer. Although the book may lull the layman into the comfortable impression that it is all his attorney needs to quickly clean up Lake Erie, or sweep away the Los Angeles smog, the layman will have problems convincing the careful practitioner, who will very shortly discover that cites to cases are often either missing, incomplete, or inaccurate, and that much of what is written here is rather over-zealously stated. Wishing a principle into existence just doesn't always make it so.

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For example, in discussing the much touted *Diamond* case, in which a Los Angeles attorney brought suit on behalf of the 7 million-odd inhabitants of Los Angeles County against some 200 defendant air polluters (including 32 metal refining plants, four cast iron foundries, nineteen smelting plants, seven brass foundries, three aluminum foundries five rubber tire manufacturers, General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler, seven glass manufacturers, two frit manufacturing plants, U.S. Gypsum, twenty-nine chemical plants, the Southern California Edison Company at three locations, and six airlines),<sup>1</sup> the writers note in a one-sentence paragraph (otherwise unexplained to the layman reader) that “defendants’ demurrer to the complaint was sustained”. The one sentence is lost amidst several pages devoted to a discussion of what one can only assume was a once-in-a-lifetime myopic court which did not recognize and enforce the “existing private rights” of the complaining parties.

Though not quite measuring up to its declared purpose of providing something in the nature of a “do-it-yourself” handbook covering all the legal remedies now in existence to stop government and industry from destroying the environment, the authors have colorfully covered, in a most readable style, the major innovative cases in the environmental field. Considering the near kaleidoscopic changes in the creative development of remedies, old and new, in that field, the authors should be forgiven their haste. Had they taken time to insure the accuracy of their citations and to provide the academic analysis typical of some of the more ambitious efforts in the area, they too might have found their work out of date before it was off the press.

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<sup>1</sup>The courtroom, on return date, has been described as “looking like a meeting of the Los Angeles County Bar Association”.