

1966

## Book Review

Joseph Stearns  
*Judge, Cleveland Municipal Court*

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### Recommended Citation

Joseph Stearns, Book Review, 15 Clev.-Marshall L. Rev. 392 (1966)

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## Book Reviews

*Reviewed by Joseph Stearns\**

NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS (2d Edition, 1965) by Howard L. Oleck. Prentice-Hall, Inc.; Englewood Cliffs, N. J. XVI, and 622 pp. \$19.95.

“American Society consists, to an extraordinary extent, of voluntary associations of persons and organizations, not for profit, but for the public good (*pro bono publico*). No other nation in the world even approaches the United States in number and activity of non-profit organizations.

“These organizations all are based on the characteristic American tendency to form groups (to associate themselves) voluntarily, for the accomplishment of social, religious, educational, fraternal, economic, and other purposes. Americans are the greatest ‘joiners’ in the world.”

These are the comments of the author at the beginning of Chapter XXV of his book. They could have been the opening remarks of Chapter One. And he adds, “Nobody knows the exact number of non-profit organizations in this country.”

All of the states of the United States have passed laws for the regulation of non-profit organizations. Thousands of judicial decisions have been rendered with a view to maintaining order and fair dealing in the operation of these organizations. The purpose and central theme of this book is the examination of everything that is necessary and desirable for that order and fair dealing in the operation of every type of non-profit organization.

Through 40 chapters on 622 pages Dean Oleck pursues this gigantic task. He presents all the problems and complexities of non-profit organizations, from their inceptions to their dissolutions. Every phase of the non-profit organization is discussed, analyzed, interpreted and explained. Each chapter is richly annotated with the latest judicial decisions and with statute citations from the several states. Loaded with all the latest legal forms, certificates, notices, by-laws, sample charters and other documents that are required and necessary for the proper and successful operation of non-profit organizations, the book convincingly demonstrates the apt craftsmanship of the author.

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Written in clear and lucid language, the entire volume is characterized by the effective and scholarly comments that are the hallmark of the studious researcher. From the beginning to the end the text rigidly maintains the scholarly approach to the subject matter.

From the way each chapter ends with a review of "points to remember," it is quite obvious that Dean Oleck basically is an educator. Chapter after chapter reveals this dominant character of the author. And while the usefulness of the book is compelling for the practitioner, it is equally clear that the law student will find this book his most reliable source in his study of non-profit organizations. In one volume the work contains all that is needed to provide an authoritative and useful handbook which lawyers must use to avoid the pitfalls of outdated usage and obsolete formality. It is a trusted source not only for the lawyer, but for accountants, executive secretaries and officers, and laymen who work with non-profit organizations.

Dean Oleck is an experienced writer in many branches of the law. He is, for example, the author of an earlier six-volume work titled *Modern Corporation Law*, which undoubtedly was a point of departure for his articles and treatises for the law profession and for the lay reader on the special problems of non-profit corporations and associations. His first edition of this work on non-profit corporations was published in 1956, went into six printings, and was acclaimed as the prime authority on the subject. The present book is a revised and much amplified edition of that work. The swift and significant changes of the pertinent laws and practices during the past decade made the revision necessary. The chapters dealing with charitable trusts and foundations are particularly interesting. They reflect the author's priceless insight which he gained into the operations of most of the nation's leading charitable trusts during his experience as Consultant to the Patman Congressional Committee's investigation of the best known foundations of the United States.

Of special interest, too, is the proposed Uniform Non-Profit Organizations statute with which the author closes the book. Adoption of such a statute might well be considered by the legislatures of the various states, as a sound alternative to the much-criticized aspects of the Model Corporation Acts (profit and non-profit) of the Section of Corporation Law of the American Bar Association.