

# Missouri Law Review

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## Book Reviews

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et al.: Book Reviews  
**Book Reviews**

**TRIAL TACTICS AND METHODS.** By Robert E. Keeton, New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1954. p. 438.

This is another book to add to the growing list of texts on trial techniques, most of which have been written by lawyers with many years of experience in the trial of cases. The present author appears to have practiced seven years in Houston, Texas, with a firm of lawyers. One might doubt that such a short experience would present the proper background for gaining the essential knowledge to write a book of this type. However, in a foreword, we are assured by Dean Storey, recently the President of the American Bar Association, and Dean of Southern Methodist University Law School, at which the author has been teaching since 1951, that the "author is unusually well qualified for the task he has undertaken. He brings to the subject a wealth of actual trial experience in various types of cases in the state and federal courts."

The book has been prepared as a text book. It begins with a chapter on "What Makes a Trial Lawyer Effective." It then deals with the presentation of evidence, and objections to evidence, trial motions, the charge, and the jury. It also discusses problems peculiar to the non-jury case. The topics of preparation for trial, pleadings, and proceedings before trial are considered at the end of the book. This appears to the reviewer to be an illogical order of material, but it does no substantial harm, for one can read the last chapters first, if he looks through the table of contents before he commences to read the text.

The topic headings are, in most instances, in question form. For example, the reader is introduced to one problem by the inquiry, "What witnesses should you call?" Following the questions in many cases, are sets of facts to which the queries may be applied.

The breadth of coverage is adequate, and the material is of good quality. The reviewer believes that the book may be read with profit by practitioners.

The book has so much detail in it that it can best be read slowly and in small portions at a time.

The practitioners of long experience will not agree entirely with what is said by Professor Keeton, but one will profit from reading what another, and younger, man says, so that he may evaluate his ideas in the light of the approach to practice problems by a young thinker who has probably given academic answers to many of the matters considered in this book.

CARL C. WHEATON\*

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EDITOR'S NOTE

**NEED FOR BACK ISSUE OF REVIEW**—The *Law Review* office undertakes to keep in stock back issues of the *Review*. At the present time we have an adequate supply of all issues except November, 1937 (Volume 2, Number 4). In order to replenish our stock, we would be happy to purchase a limited number of this issue. We would appreciate hearing from any reader who has a copy of Volume 2, Number 4, which he would be willing to send to us.