The author prefaces her book by indicating that it is "for the media" and is designed "to make the legal system more comprehensible to them." This is a lofty objective but one that the book achieves with some measure of success.

The author commences her study by giving an overview of the law in the first chapter. This cursory treatment of the legal system necessarily can only cover some of the complexities of the system which took hundreds of years to develop and leaves significant areas without comment. One problem with a simplified expose of the legal system is that it may give the reader a self assuredness that he or she now understands the law when entering he or she enters upon the topics discussed. Beware! The law in these areas is not as simple as portrayed by the author; far from it.

Another problem with the book, although I am sure as a result of the publication of the book (1982) rather than through design, is the omission of discussion of the consequence that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has on the media. The Constitutional rights protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms will significantly affect the area of "the law and
the media."

However, aside from the two aforementioned areas of concern, the introduction to the legal system by the author is adequate. It should give the reader, unfamiliar with the system, enough knowledge to understand its basic workings, without being so comprehensive as to bore them.

The author then goes on in the book to describe, generally, the law as it relates to defamation, contempt, copyright, privacy, freedom of information and obscenity. Again, the approach taken by the author is to examine the application of the law in these areas in a very cursory way. Throughout these chapters she cites reported cases which exemplify the law in the area and thereby allow the reader to relate the law to actual situations. The case method of analysis of the areas under discussion obviously comes from the authors training as a law school professor.

The author has also decided to editorialize in parts of the book. In the chapter on Privacy and Freedom of Information the author decided to criticize the Privacy Act. It is unfortunate that the author does not temper her criticism with some instruction on how a journalist can use the new legislation dealing with access to information and privacy to their advantage.

Although this book provides a cursory examination of the law as it relates to the media, I would nevertheless recommend it to one who wishes a basic knowledge of the legal system. It will assist, to some extent, those without legal training to understand the law.