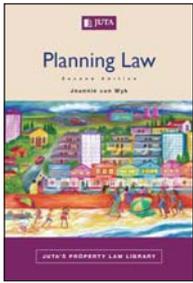


THE PUBLISHERS From



Planning Law

Second Edition by Jeannie van Wyk
Juta's Property Law Library (2012)
Soft cover

Over the last several years planning law has experienced unprecedented growth and interest deriving from socio-economic realities that can no longer be ignored. This book provides a timely and valuable guide to the subject.

Readers should not to be discouraged by the academic feel created by the introduction, which commences with a general overview of the evolution of planning law, and the conclusion, which describes present challenges to the future development of planning law.

Whilst this may not appeal to experienced practitioners to others still developing an understanding for this area of law knowledge of the context is vital and in

this regard, the work is of benefit.

The book is usefully divided into five sections: an introduction (in which, as mentioned, context is explained), actors and their actions in planning law (law makers and planning laws, planning administration, owners and neighbours), spatial planning, land use management and land development management (two important and topical spheres of law – environmental impact assessment and informal settlement – are included in this section), enforcement and compliance comprise the fourth section and finally, future development of the discipline. This structure constructively allows the reader to navigate the book easily in order to locate answers to specific questions.

The author alerts the reader in the preface that the law is stated as at the end of 2011. This is an important issue on which the book is deficient. Significant advances have since occurred, some of which is highlighted in the foreword on some major legislative developments and landmark constitutional court decisions delivered early in 2012.

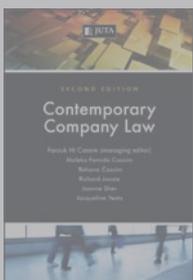
The foreword briefly discusses the publication of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill 2012 that was approved by cabinet on the 20th March

2012 against the background of the pending expiration on the 17th June 2012 of the deadline imposed by the Constitutional Court in *Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality v Gauteng Development Tribunal and Others* 2010 (6) SA 182 (CC), and a series of other influential decisions. However, I could not avoid the sense that the author would have better served the discipline by postponing publication of the book in order to address these developments more comprehensively.

The publisher observes that the book is intended to provide detailed attention to the core of planning law that comprises spatial planning, land use management and land development management, and also addresses the multi-faceted aspects relating to administrative, environmental, local government, housing and informal settlement issues.

That the work further provides useful discussion on the legal principles and legislative provisions as amplified by discussions of the major court decisions is also noted by the publisher. Overall, and save for my reservation regarding adequate attention to advancements since 2011, I find myself in agreement with this assessment and recommend this work as a welcome addition to any practitioner's library. **A**

Sandhya Mahabeer, Durban Bar



Contemporary Company Law

Second Edition by FHI Cassim, ML Cassim, R Cassim, R Jooste, J Shew and J Yeats
Juta Law (2012)
Soft cover

Company law is central to an extended, inter-related network of legislation which is vital to the efficient and effective conduct of commercial transactions and litigation. This legislation is buttressed by the common law and an extensive body of case law which has been developed over the years. The Companies Act of 2008 builds on the base of the much-amended 1973 Act and modernises the South African legislation in line with current international standards. The second edition of *Contemporary Com-*

pany Law provides in its 1 088 pages a comprehensive commentary on the new Act discussing fully what the authors refer to as 'innovative features' such as business rescue and independent review, amongst others, and highlighting 'archaic and obsolete concepts and doctrines' which have been jettisoned. Practitioners who have grown up with the 1973 Act have had their work cut out familiarising themselves with these changes. *Contemporary Company Law* takes one through the labyrinthine intricacies of the new Act in simple and clear language, in a layout that makes it easy to read. Within each chapter the sub-topics under discussion are clearly set out and numbered and one can easily access a particular topic by referring to the comprehensive index at the beginning of each chapter. Given the spate of large corporate lapses and failures worldwide in the last couple of years, the chapters on corporate governance and insider trading

and market manipulation are particularly relevant.

In addition to the comprehensive table of contents, which itself runs to twenty-eight pages, there is an extensive index, table of cases and table of statutes which refer additionally to ancillary South African legislation and, interestingly, to foreign legislation, thus adding an international flavour to the book. One would indeed be hard-pressed not to be able to access any topic effectively and efficiently. As with the first edition, this book is a useful reference addition to the library of every practitioner, academic and student. No doubt the amendments to the Companies Act will continue to come thick and fast over the coming years and it will be interesting to see how the authors and publishers deal with these as this work is already the second edition in two years. **A**

DS Hodge, The Island Group, Sandown