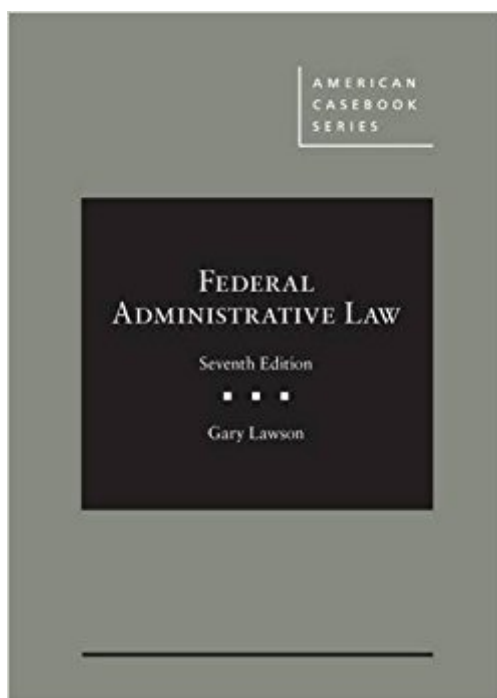


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# Federal Administrative Law (American Casebook Series)



## Synopsis

This casebook emphasizes current doctrine and its historical evolution in exploring the four basic foundations of federal administrative law: separation of powers, statutorily- and constitutionally-required procedures for agency adjudication and rulemaking, scope of judicial review of agency action, and the availability and timing of judicial review. The book concentrates on federal rather than state administrative law in order to provide the fundamental knowledge and concepts necessary to understand the subject, on the belief that an understanding of federal law can be translated into other settings. The book also maintains the straightforward organization and don't-hide-the-ball presentation that has characterized the book since its inception. The Seventh Edition contains five new principal cases, eight major new note cases, ten shorter new note cases, and updated treatments of all major topics. It also includes a revised Chapter I that includes an extended treatment of statutory interpretation to accommodate the increasing inclusion of Administrative Law in the first-year curriculum.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you have to get it than you get it. Format is pretty standard.

Possibly the best casebook I had as a law student.

This book was purchased for my Administrative Law Class at the University of Missouri, School of

Law. I am delighted that the author gives fair and equal time to the doctrines of federalism, originalism, and formalism. It is somewhat surprising to encounter this level of balance anywhere in academia. However, much to my great disappointment the author choose not to include an index in the book. This could just be a problem related to my advanced age and crusty world view. As a very non-traditional life-long learner, and now as a law student, I guess I've grown quite used to text books on subjects of this sophistication having an index. The missing index is the reason for my giving this book only three stars. Otherwise, this casebook would have received four stars.

I'm no law professor or administrative law practitioner, but I'm certainly a member of this book's only possible sales demographic - students trying to learn the topic at hand. Therefore I can comment on how truly ineffective this book is as an educational resource. First of all, I'm suspicious of the continued existence of these big expensive leather-bound casebooks, especially when cases and statutes are now available online and usually free to law students. With most of the basic information herein available elsewhere, the book should help synthesize far-flung and disparate legal documentation so the student can discern the basic structure of the topic. In this regard the book fails, and Gary Lawson's educational style (surprisingly, he really is a law professor) is obtuse and pedantic almost to the point of disrespect for the student. The professor in my class has often disclosed that this textbook deliberately leaves out many details, which he must then supplement from the teaching edition. I'm sure this obscurantism is meant as a pedagogical technique, but it makes much of the book maddeningly difficult for the student trying to prepare for a lecture beforehand. One ridiculous example can be found on page 296, where Lawson introduces "four different tests ..." for a particular administrative law doctrine. The first test is spelled out in the next paragraph, and the second appears two pages later (both by Lawson). However, the third test is embedded in a case ruling three pages later, and the fourth test is embedded in a case ruling seventeen pages later. In neither of the two rulings did the judges use the term "test," and the importance of the statements must be hunted down and inferred; with Lawson neglecting to state that they were the third and fourth items on the list he introduced long before. In general, because of the layout and typesetting it is often difficult to determine if the text you are reading is from a case, a cited article, or commentary by Lawson. The reprints of cases are also fundamentally problematic because in administrative law, precedents are usually formed via procedural or technical decisions deep within the rulings on cases that are about something else. Nonetheless, Lawson reprints large blocks of unnecessary (for this course) issues and reasonings for cases while often declining to describe where exactly the administrative law precedent can be found within a judge's voluminous

rulings and dicta. Overall, this unnecessarily confusing and obtuse casebook does little to help the student untangle the already convoluted realm of administrative law. The author is certainly experienced in the field and he knows the details, but his approach to teaching is inherently unhelpful. [~doomsdayer520~]

A good book overall, gives balanced discussion to both sides of many agency doctrines. Although, I feel many of the cases could be significantly edited down to distill more of the salient points.

The book is fantastic. It is nothing like the usual case books that ask questions at the end, and the reader has no idea how to answer them because the answer can only be found in materials outside the book. The cases are very well edited -if you get a case that can be relevant for two different theories, you don't get everything crammed at one section but at the place where each part of the case belongs. The excerpts on administrative law theory are fabulous: one can actually see how concepts interrelate and how people that made the law thought about it. I would recommend it to any professor to incorporate it in his or her course.

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