

The Student Journal of Law is an exciting new project formed in 2010 by students for students. Editor, Gideon Shirazi, sjol.editor@gmail.com

Bennion on Statutory Interpretation (5th edn)

Overall rating: 9/10

Practitioner suitability: 10/10

Suitability for students: 7/10

Suitability for reference: 8/10

Bennion on Statutory Interpretation is the definitive guide to reading and analysing common law legislation. It is comprehensive, authoritative and elegantly written, with the author drawing on his wide expertise and encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject. Legislation has proliferated, and as its impact continues to increase, the rules of interpretation become increasingly important. Long gone are the days when a professional lawyer can take the simplistic view that has long been taught of three rules (the literal, mischief and golden rules). *Bennion on Statutory Interpretation* replaces this with a more rigorous system of statutory interpretation. There are hundreds of rules of interpretation, presumptions and constructive tools all found within *Bennion's Code*, a reading of which will improve any lawyer's interpretative skills.

Practitioner suitability: 10/10

The importance of statutory interpretation has increased over the last fifty years, and continues to do so at an unprecedented rate. Every practitioner must spend time constructing statutes, and this is bound to continue. *Bennion* provides an invaluable insight into the process of statutory interpretation, in a realistic way as taken by the courts. A reading will furnish any lawyer well with a solid grasp of the principles of interpretation and will immeasurably increase your flexibility and agility when reading statutes. This is a book well worth buying and reading.

Student suitability: 7/10

Statute law is pervasive, with legislation in every field of law. *Bennion's* book provides a unique insight into the principles of interpretation as well as a good commentary on a major part of constitutional law. In particular, any student would do well to read at least Division One of the book, which includes a breakdown of the structure of an Act and a solid discussion of Parliamentary supremacy as it applies in a real practical context. It is a valuable addition to any library.

Reference suitability: 8/10

Bennion is extremely comprehensive, well-referenced and indexed. That said, statutory interpretation is an enormous subject and the need to use this as a reference work is more limited than other practitioner texts. After reading through the book once, it is very easy to navigate, but it can be difficult to find specific rules unless you know roughly where to look.

<http://www.sjol.co.uk/submissions/publications/bennion-on-statutory-interpretation>