

THE LAW OF TORT IN HONG KONG. By ROBYN MARTIN. [Hong Kong: China and Hong Kong Law Studies. 1987. xxvi + 243 pp. Softcover.]

"THIS book is not intended to be a comprehensive text book on tort law", says the preface. Indeed it is not. One of a series of books by these publishers, this book is primarily a collection of cases on tort law.

The book contains 16 chapters. Most of these adhere to the following format: (i) Introduction, (ii) Cases and comments, (iii) Conclusion.

In the case sections, the author gives summaries of what she considers to be the most relevant cases in the particular area of tort law. The cases include leading reported English decisions, unreported

English decisions, a few Australian and Canadian decisions and, of course, Hong Kong decisions. As the cases are not fully explained, nor are all relevant decisions cited, the serious researcher on Hong Kong tort law would find this book to be only a starting point.

Of particular interest are the references throughout the book to relevant UK and Hong Kong legislation. An example of such references can be found in chapter 11 on "Occupiers' Liability". This is useful for those who want to know at which points the Hong Kong legislature has intervened in tort law, for a comparison with the local position. In addition an Appendix on "Issues on which Hong Kong Law differs from English Law" is included toward the end of the book.

Apart from the usual subjects covered, there is also a separate chapter on "Personal Injury Damages". This chapter gives a sampling of Hong Kong decisions in which awards of damages are made. Although not strictly applicable in Singapore, the decisions give an interesting indication of the level of damages possible in the Hong Kong courts. The chapter also discusses the question of interest recoverable and concludes with a summary of the heads of damage recoverable under Hong Kong law.

The book has little else to offer to those who want detailed discussion in a particular area of tort law as it is intended to be a handy case-book for tort students and Hong Kong practitioners. As mentioned it is merely a good starting point for those intending to do research on tort law in Hong Kong.