

STREET ON TORTS. BY MARGARET BRAZIER. (8th Edition). [London: Butterworth. 1988. lix + 562 pp. (including index). Softcover: S\$91.10.]

STREET ON TORTS hardly needs an elaborate introduction, being well-known as a less conventional staple in the diet of the English tort law student. The eighth edition, published in 1988, is authored by Margaret

Brazier, a former student and colleague of the late Professor Harry Street who passed away in 1984. In her preface, Ms Brazier expresses the hope that despite the changes made, the book will retain the “crisp and radical nature” of Professor Street’s original enterprise. This aim, and more, is generally achieved.

The eighth edition sees some changes in the organisation of the book, adding to its clarity and unity. The structure of Part I, which deals with introductory material, and Part II, which covers intentional invasions of interests in person and property, remain essentially unchanged. The section on intentional interference with economic interests has been moved from its position at the end of the book in the 7th edition, to Part III in the present edition, thereby relating it to the previous part which also deals with intentional torts. Negligence follows in Part IV, where there is an extended discussion on the duty issue. Products liability, now a tort of strict liability under the Consumer Protection Act 1987, has been moved from the Negligence section to Part V, which discusses strict liability torts. Part VI covers defamation, and Part VII misuse of process. Of the torts which were previously discussed together with misuse of process, those relating to interference with family relations have now been abolished whilst other miscellaneous torts, such as breach of confidence, are discussed elsewhere in the book. The last part, Part VIII, concerns remedies and parties and now, more logically, includes the section on compensation for personal injuries which was previously dealt with under Negligence. A useful feature that the book has retained from its predecessor is its very detailed contents section. This enables the reader to take in at a glance not just chapter headings but also sections and subsections, thereby facilitating easy reference and emphasising the structure of the book.

Where new material is concerned, the book incorporates new UK statutes such as the Latent Damage Act 1986 and the Consumer Protection Act 1987, although it is unlikely that these changes will be relevant in Singapore. Ms Brazier has rewritten many portions of the book, especially the section on Negligence, to reflect developments in this area since the previous edition. For instance, she traces the decreasing popularity of the *Anns* two-stage test, including a brief discussion of the criticism made by the Privy Council in *Yuen Kun Yeu v. AG for Hongkong*¹ Another example is the discussion on recovery for economic loss caused by negligence, which has also been rewritten. There have, however, been several interesting decisions on these matters since the book was completed, culminating in the important House of Lords decision in *Murphy v. Brentwood DC*,² overruling *Anns v. Merton LBC*.³ Some of the issues to which only tentative conclusions could be made in the book can now be more clearly resolved in the light of these cases.

¹ [1987] 2 All E.R. 705.

² [1990] All E.R. 908.

³ [1978] A.C. 728.

This edition of *Street*, like previous editions, should prove useful to those seeking a modern approach to tort law, an area of law where English texts remain very helpful in the Singapore context.

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