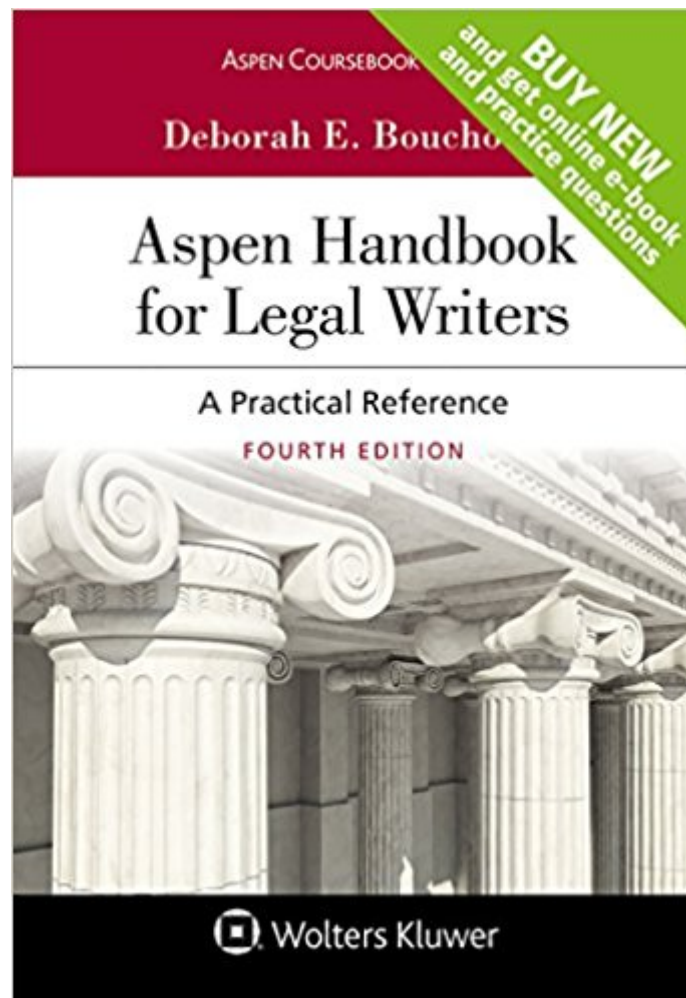




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Aspen Handbook For Legal Writers: A Practical Reference [Connected Casebook] (Aspen Coursebook)



Synopsis

Buy a new version of this Connected Casebook and receive access to the online e-book, practice questions from your favorite study aids, and an outline tool on CasebookConnect, the all in one learning solution for law school students.

CasebookConnect offers you what you need most to be successful in your law school classes – portability, meaningful feedback, and greater efficiency. The Aspen Handbook for Legal Writers, a brief and accessible reference on mechanics and style, is a useful companion to any legal writing text. Targeted at the needs of legal writers, the text initially focuses on the rules of grammar, style, and usage with plenty of examples. A section on Legal

Documents offers strategies to improve legal writing, with sample letters, memorandum, case brief, trial brief, and appellate brief. Numerous, helpful examples showcase both good and bad writing. This practical approach helps law students with common problems and dilemmas:

- substitutions for “legalese,”
- lists of commonly used legal idioms, spelling tips, advice on organization and the legal writing process, proofreading, and document design. Modeled

after handbooks used at the undergraduate level, the Handbook features a small trim size, comb-binding, clear organization, two-color printing, and helpful design elements to highlight important information. Distinctive features designed with the student in mind include Websites for each topic addressed, Tips and Strategies to highlight key topics such as breaking writers’ blocks, meeting deadlines, communicating by email and text messaging, ethics notes, and Challenge Exercises in each chapter to test mastery. A brief Table of Contents on the inside front cover and Style Sheet on the inside back cover offer quick reference. Key

Features: For all writers, pragmatic and useful information is given on beginning the writing process, tips to meet deadlines, common legal conventions or traditions, common blunders made by legal writers, and proofreading and document design. The fundamental features of legal writing (accuracy, readability, clarity, and brevity) are covered in depth. Quiz or

Challenge questions test readers’ comprehension of the material and showcase methods to improve writing. Sample documents are provided for the most common

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Aspen Handbook is an outstanding reference text for law students who need a refresher on basic writing skills in a real-world legal context. As a law professor who teaches legal reasoning, analysis, and writing, I have required this textbook each year since it was initially published. One of its most attractive features is the sample memos and briefs in the back of the book, which offer helpful examples of the specialized formats lawyers use in practice. At the beginning of each chapter, the author includes website links to interactive exercises for particular writing challenges. The book also includes "challenge" questions for additional practice. The book is published in a convenient, looseleaf format. Each chapter is just a few pages long and tackles a relatively narrow writing issue. As I review first-year law student writing and diagnose distinct writing idiosyncracies, I routinely recommend specific chapters for students to brush up on their writing skills. As I tell my students, writing well is a lifelong learning exercise! This helpful, straightforward book is an excellent resource for law students, who soon learn that excellent legal writing is an essential skill for all successful lawyers.

The only good thing I can say about this book is that it offers countless examples of what good writers shouldn't do. Did this book have an editor? It recites established rules -- e.g., "don't use unnecessary words" -- and then proceeds to violate them right and left. It contains rampant verbosity, misplaced modifiers, "creative" abuse of punctuation, comically bungled phrases, a grade-schooler's command of traditional sentence formation, and more! Anything you can think of to screw up a phrase, sentence or paragraph, this book has it. One needn't be a grammatical prude to take offense at its mauling of our language. This from someone holding herself out as a writer? Did she dictate this thing and not bother to proofread it? I'm stunned by its lameness. And Aspen is a highly reputable publisher -- go figure. On top of everything else, this book has been RE-released. Have Aspen's top people even glanced at it? I've read a number of books in this field, and any one of them would be better than this. If you're really interested in improving your writing, go with something -- anything -- by Bryan Garner. Or, if you're shooting for something simpler, get a secretary's guide. Something you select at random will surely be better.

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