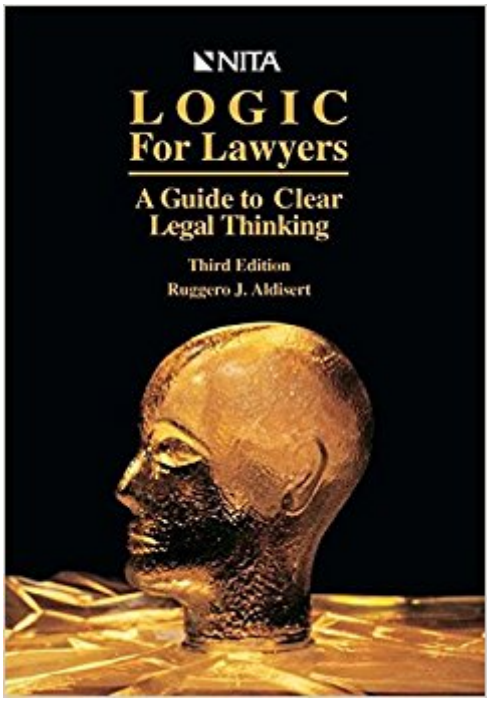
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Logic For Lawyers: A Guide To Clear Legal Thinking



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Synopsis

To win in court, you must master the elements of legal logic - the ultimate tool of persuasion in the courtroom. In Logic for Lawyers: A Guide to Clear Legal Thinking, Senior U.S. Circuit Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert, tells how to use legal reasoning to persuade judges and juries. A 30-year veteran of the bench, Aldisert helps litigators understand and apply the elements of legal logic. Using these skills, you can argue more persuasively - both in briefs and before the court. And just as critically, you can also expose flaws in adversaries' arguments. The result? A competitive edge in the courtroom. Rather than miring readers in exotic formulas and theories often found in logic texts, Aldisert explains in broad strokes the basics of logic and its application to legal thinking. You'll gain important insight into the mental processes we use in "thinking like a lawyer."Reviews"This is a book about legal reasoning or legal logic. While not challenging Justice Holmes' classic statement, 'The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience,' it offers telling arguments that legal reasoning, or legal logic, may plan an equal or even more significant role in the life of the law ... All judges, lawyers, and law students will greatly profit by reading it."-William J. Brennan, Jr., U.S. Supreme Court Justice (Ret.)"Logic for Lawyers is the product of a keen mind that has benefited from opportunities to engage in and examine legal thinking from a variety of perspectives. This volume fills a surprising void in the current legal literature. Its publication should be particularly welcomed by law students and those who teach them."-Mark A. Nordenberg, Chancellor and Professor of Law, University of PittsburghThe eBook versions of this title feature links to Lexis Advance for further legal research options.

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Customer Reviews

Great good fortune introduced me to this landmark book in the year of its first publication, 1988, over a decade after I graduated from law school.This book’s outstanding revelation to me was neither its (useful) discussion of deductive or inductive reasoning (which, to me, were comparatively elementary), nor syllogistic reasoning (which to me was not only elementary but problematic).The book’s discussion of "formal" fallacies, including syllogisms, is interesting and worthwhile, and knowledge of the existence of these formal fallacies is important. However, I question the need, as a criteria of reasoning validity, of strict, universal application of these formal reasoning structures to an analysis and evaluation of judicial opinions or practical legal reasoning.This book’s blockbuster revelation to me was its discussion of "informal" fallacies, including the need for developing one’s skill in recognizing or spotting "informal" fallacies in the reasoning of others - and in avoiding the commission of "informal" fallacies in one’s own reasoning.Other reviewers of this book comment on the need for studying a course on logic, as an adjunct to this book. I agree, with a qualification. I feel the greatest need, in practical or legal reasoning, is for treatises providing in-depth analysis of each "informal" fallacy. Fortunately, such treatises are now beginning to appear.Another significant deficiency in modern logic textbooks is their failure to provide compelling and unique examples of the "informal" fallacies noted (on a theoretical basis) in these textbooks. In this area of illustrative examples, Judge Aldisert’s book contains a treasure trove of numerous examples of "informal" fallacies, the value of which is enhanced by the fact that they are all discussed in the context of judicial opinions from court cases, which Judge Aldisert quotes in his text.No matter how many treatises regarding "informal" fallacies which have now appeared and will now appear in the future, Judge Aldisert’s book will always remain on my bookshelf - this book remains my "first stop" in my search for relevant issues of "legal logic."My award of "five stars" to this book is not because this book is definitive (it is not), but because it is seminal, and in my heart and mind, is a classic, and remains an indispensable, introductory overview to any prospective law student or practitioner.

The title of this book looks very promising to people who are interested in common law or lawschool

students, and many of the chapters, such as the discussion of several inductive and deductive reasoning with legal precedents are pretty solid indeed. The reader will gain an in-depth understanding in the theoretical framework of legal reasoning, a level well above a mediocre first-year law student.DO NOT expect, however, that you will have A+ easily in most law classes after reading this book. Success in lawschool or any other law-related classes in gradschool/college depends on many things. A sharp legal mind alone can be frustrated by laziness. Besides, although the knowledge in this book looks like a long list of recipes that will help you ace whatever classes, it only provides you a minimum amount of prerequisites that you'd better consider as a "must have", rather than a "luxurious decor"

Judge Aldisert, through decades of experience on the U.S. Court of Appeals and as a student and teacher of applying logic to legal reasoning, enables the student to identify and apply the principles of logic to legal reasoning. While this is, to a degree, intuitive to lawyers, studying this book will give the student a firm grasp on the application of these principles. I use the word "student" deliberately - to derive the maximum benefit from this book, you must understand the principle before you and the pertinent terms before proceeding. I highly recommend this book.

I have used the principles in this book in every oral argument I've made since I got more than halfway through. It really opened my eyes to a whole new way of preparing arguments and better yet, attacking my adversaries' arguments.

this book unlocks the labyrinthine world of legal reasoning. an effective tool to clear oral and written advocacy.

I have "invested" in many books to help with the law school experience. Wish I had discovered this one first. Clears up a lot of questions about what the cases mean and how to understand the logic of the law. Should be required reading for first semester in law school.

This book is very well written guide. It goes beyond simple explanations of the Socratic method by digging deep into inductive and deductive resoning.

BOOK IS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION!!!

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