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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

DRUNK DRIVING DEFENSE, by Lawrence E. Taylor, Little, Brown & Co., Boston & Toronto 1981, 453 pp.

When a client asks an attorney to defend him against a charge of driving while under the influence (DWI), the attorney may mistakenly believe that the charge is only a traffic violation. In *Drunk Driving Defense* Taylor sets out in no uncertain terms the complexity and gravity of the charge and the expertise necessary to defend the DWI client. The attorney who believes that drunk driving is merely a glorified traffic offense is mistaken. The attorney's misperception will severely harm his client. Taylor keenly observes that "[a] unique system of legal standards and procedures exists in drunk driving cases, a system geared to facilitate a conviction."¹

Taylor examines the attorney-client relationship, nature of the crime, elements of the offense, pretrial procedures, trial, evidence, jury instructions, sentencing procedures, and post-trial hearing. As Taylor discusses these topics, he gives the reader practical information by supplying checklists, motions, forms, and examples of witness examinations. These materials are invaluable if attorneys cross-check the information with their state statutes and case law. In light of current legislative trends to toughen drunk driving laws, every attorney who defends drunk driving cases should read Taylor's chapter on pretrial procedures. The information in that chapter will enlighten not only the novice defense attorney but the most experienced as well.

The conclusion reached after reading the book is that if an attorney does not do DWI defense work regularly, he should decline to defend a client. The general practitioner that attempts to help a business client or friend by taking his case will soon discover that he is incompetent. In light of the complex topic, Taylor has done a splendid job. The book is mandatory reading for all who claim an understanding of criminal law and procedure, judges included.

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1. L. TAYLOR, DRUNK DRIVING DEFENSE 391 (1981).

