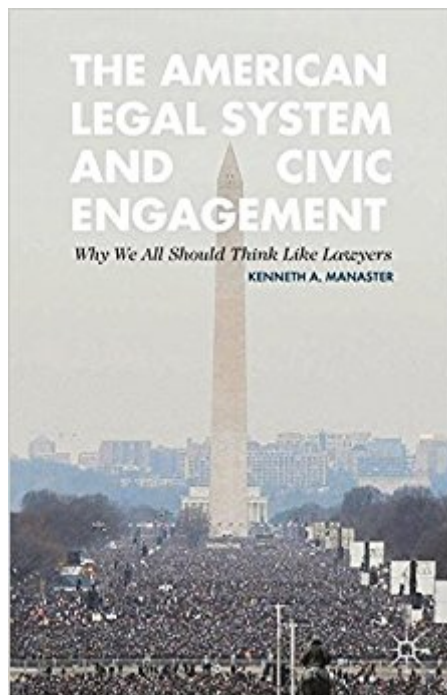




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The American Legal System And Civic Engagement: Why We All Should Think Like Lawyers



Synopsis

In recent years there has been a widely-recognized and serious lack of rational and civil public discussion about current issues. In *The American Legal System and Civic Engagement*, Manaster asserts that ordinary citizens can form their opinions on public issues more intelligently, confidently, and responsibly if they have some guidance on how to do it. Drawing from the tools and traditions of the American legal system, he offers guidance to aid citizens in understanding public issues and participating in the type of responsible public debate these challenging issues deserve. From analyzing the influence of the media in informing the public, to examining the role of the citizen as a juror, *The American Legal System and Civic Engagement* is a practical and informative guide to how Americans can better perform the civic duty that modern democracy requires.

Book Information

Paperback: 217 pages

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan; 1st ed. 2013 edition (November 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1349466239

ISBN-13: 978-1349466238

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #477,628 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in *Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Jury* #127 in *Books > Textbooks > Law > Legal Reference* #225 in *Books > Law > Philosophy*

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"This highly engaging book introduces lay readers to legal analytical methods, and shows how these methods can help to improve their capacity to develop informed opinions. Manaster convincingly demonstrates that the methods of legal analysis, such as having standards of evidence, respect for deliberate procedure, using expertise, identifying bias, and keeping an open mind, can give individuals guidance on how best to become informed on public issues, and that knowing these methods can enable readers to become more responsible citizens." - Kevin M. Esterling, Professor of Political Science, University of California, Riverside, USA

"In this lucid and convincing case for adopting the best practices of the legal system, Manaster makes an important and original contribution to our understanding of civic engagement. He is a brilliant translator of

technical legal terminology into everyday language, providing a helpful citizen's guide to thinking like a lawyer and strengthening American democracy." - Janet A. Flammang, Professor of Political Science, Santa Clara University, USA"Manaster eloquently offers an accessible method for citizens to exercise their most important duty in a democracy – forming and voicing their opinion on public issues. He teaches citizens to 'think like a lawyer,' showing how the process of legal reasoning can be used by ordinary people to form thoughtful opinions on the complex policy issues of our day." - Elizabeth S. Smith, Professor, Furman University, USA"This book reminds us that law need not be seen as a conspiracy against the public, but that legal thinking and procedure can powerfully inform the practice of everyday citizenship. Drawing widely on the study of law, politics, and civic education, Manaster enriches each of these fields in accessible and insightful style." - Chad Raphael, Associate Professor of Communication, Santa Clara University, USA

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