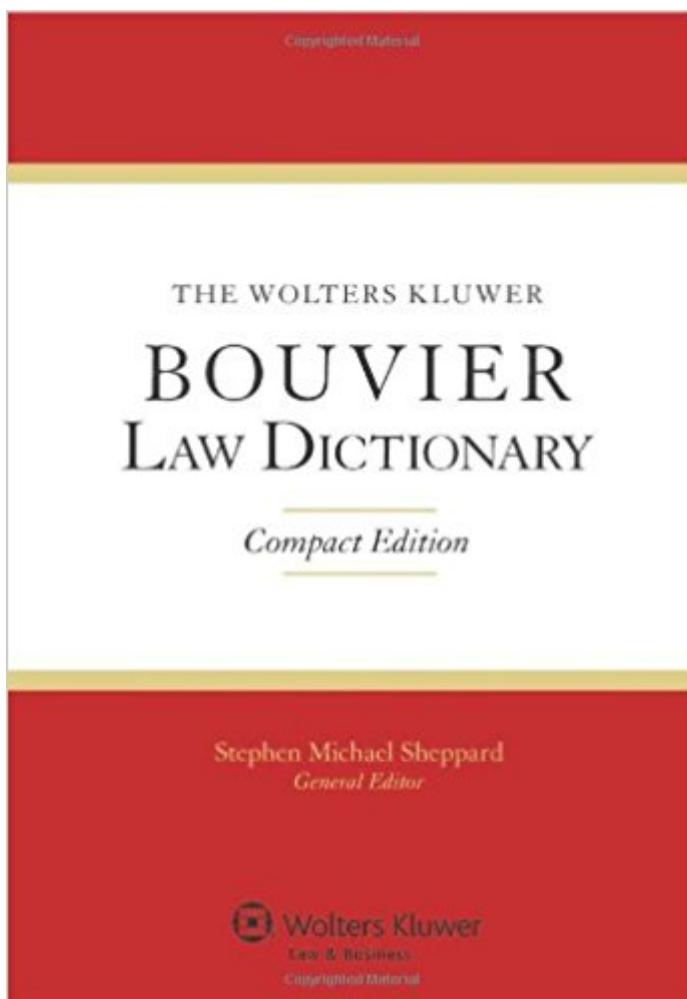


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The Wolters Kluwer Bouvier Law Dictionary: Compact Edition



Synopsis

NEW! The first complete revision of John Bouvier's great law dictionary in more than a century made relevant and authoritative for modern students of the law. Derived from the famous 1853 law dictionary used by Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln, and Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. The Wolters Kluwer Bouvier Law Dictionary has been brought completely up-to-date by a distinguished and widely-published legal scholar and teacher. Steve Sheppard, with law degrees from Oxford and Columbia Universities, brings his scholarship, international practice, and litigation experience to bear in making the famous text as relevant today as it was when it first broke ground in American law. Definitions derived from contemporary as well as classic sources give the reference book its depth and authority. Building on Bouvier's structure and entries, Professor Sheppard has added thousands of new terms and rewritten many original definitions. 8,500 robust, paragraph-length entries explain more than 11,200 words and phrases, far more than the original two-volume set of 6,600. Each entry is written to be understood by the modern student, argued by the modern lawyer, and cited by the modern judge. An intuitive structure and thorough cross-referencing makes the first complete revision of this essential dictionary in more than a hundred years accessible and easy to use. Features of The Wolters Kluwer Bouvier Law Dictionary Compact Edition

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Customer Reviews

While this is not a substitute for the unabridged (hardcover) Black's Law Dictionary, in terms of its unique organization and clear definitions this is a worthwhile buy for a law student, and perhaps

even for a practicing lawyer. At this writing, used copies--some like new--are available from sellers at a bargain price. Buy a copy before they disappear.

This is a valuable resource for anyone looking for a legal reference work. Moreover, it is a necessary resource for those working in translating legal documents into English, in order to understand legal concepts. It is complete and reliable, and is used in legal translation courses.

Content seems fairly complete, but I disagree with other reviewers who said it is small enough to carry around. It may be "compact," but it still weights in around 2 pounds.

This is a great law dictionary for those who are not lawyers. The dictionary is easy to read and very concise.

Beware the Kindle edition of this book. The dictionary itself is fine, at least for a layman, like myself. The problem I have is the search function. I have been unsuccessful in searching for more than a single word at a time, which means you can only search for the primary definition. When there are many pages of 'sub-definitions', you will be consigned to flipping page wise, sometimes many pages, until you arrive at your sub-definition (if it exists!). Furthermore, the 'location slider bar, at bottom of page, may only get you within 10-20 pages of the term or sub-term for which you are searching. Extremely tedious! Very disappointing for such an otherwise satisfactory experience. So, now I've had the Kindle book for about a year now, and have had time to use it. Yes, you may have to turn 10, 20 or more pages to access a definition. And the navigation slider at bottom, that is what will get you say 20 pages or more closest to the def. you're trying to access. Search feature (magnifying glass): very hit and miss on yielding search results. Definitions I have verified the existence of in the text, search cannot find! This is pathetic.

The new desk edition of the Bouvier Law Dictionary is a dictionary appropriate for everyone: law students, recent graduates, and practicing attorneys. The hardcover version comes in two volumes. The two volumes allow a thoroughly explanation of legal words. The dictionary provides complete and great definitions for each word as well as word derivation and word usage. Word usage examples are amazing. Those are my favorite. There is nothing better to understand a legal word than an example of how to use it. I also think that word derivation is great for legal words because it allows us to understand and remember the meaning of the word. I personally think that one sentence

definitions are not enough for legal words. This dictionary offers you a thorough word definition, followed by its derivation and usage. If you understand only by reading the definition, you are good to go. However, if you still feel that you need more information or want to learn more, you can keep reading the derivation and usage for a better understanding. Moreover, the hardcover version is perfect for an office's desk and the books will preserve their great condition regardless of usage. Learning to use legal words appropriately can be as challenging as learning a new language. Bouvier Law Dictionary has enormously helped me. I recommend it to everyone.

This being a revision of John Bouvier's famous Law Dictionary, I expected great things, however, when Wolters Kluwer Law and Business states that this dictionary is "Completely Rewritten," they are not making an understatement. I have been utilizing an online version of John Bouvier's 6th Edition (1856) Law Dictionary for the past several months, before purchasing this version, for the purposes of an offline utility, a more comprehensive dictionary, and to save the cost of buying an antique. When this copy arrived, I immediately set forth to grill its integrity to the original source, searching a number of concepts I had become much familiar with in my time with Bouvier's 6th. Unfortunately, the two books do not compare at all. Don't get me wrong, this is a fine dictionary, particularly for the more modern concepts, it explains things well enough for a layman, is rather well organized (though sometimes you'll have to look through several words to find the concept you're actually looking for), and very comprehensive, however, it seems to have lost the original spirit and clarity with which the original Bouvier Dictionaries were written, and I would not purport to utilize this dictionary as an Authoritative source for any legal argument wherein the meanings of words is the key issue at hand. By this I mean, definitions in Bouvier's Dictionaries were written with a specific clarity and precision, as if they held all the authority of a complete distillation of every legal precedent that had in the past effected them, and no word was used therein except that the exact and precise meaning were intended by it, this then providing an authority whereupon one might argue the intent of legislative writings or contractual agreements based upon truth of meaning. This edition, however, to my dismay, seems to have suffered from that same exact corruption in language which I had hoped avoid through the purchase of a "Bouvier Dictionary." Where Bouvier's definitions heralded back to the Origins of the Law, basing their foundations and authority in and upon that Natural Law, and reason and precedent, as was so crucial to the foundation of our country and its legal system; Wolters Kluwer's definitions, on the other hand, read more as an attempt to discuss, impartially, the myriad of contorted modern legal theories which now so plague, and confuse, the legal profession. This can be seen by the various observations which I made with

regards to the older concepts which I had searched out and compared side by side to each other:General Definitions - in definitions where Bouvier was extremely precise with his words, to the point of expounding it's lawful effect, Wolter Kluwer wrote with exceptional generality, and where discussion was offered, Bouvier wrote with clarity of word and authority of precedent, while Wolter Kluwer made few such motions, rather deigning, again, to speak as if such things were a subject of generality, having no specific effect, and entirely malleable concepts.Minimization of the Common Law - in concepts directly, by Bouvier, related to the Common Law, and expounded thereupon, very little is offered by way of explanation or discussion by Wolters Kluwer. It would be referenced, but the history and specifics thereof would be entirely lacking.Merging of terms - a number of terms defined specifically by Bouvier, have been merged in with other terms, under general definitions. Most noteably, Unalienable, and Inalienable. While Wolters Kluwer notes that there is "no significant difference" between the two, Bouvier defined each with a specific differentiation from the other, which ought to have been preserved.Adulteration of Definitions - while all the definitions are completely rewritten, some are so completely altered as to effect a completely different meaning than what would be read in Bouvier's under that same term. Not just additional meaning, but a total corruption thereto, if one was expected to understand a definition by the meanings of the words used therein. This corresponds to the authoritative precedent which Bouvier's Dictionary held in it's definitions, which Wolters Kluwers lacks.Removal of Terms - some terms from Bouvier are entirely missing in Wolters Kluwer, the most important of which is the List of Legal Maxims, which Bouvier compiled under the topic of Maxim. This is the biggest blow to me, as one of the main reasons I sought to purchase a Bouvier Dictionary, was that I expected it to retain that compilation of Maxims which Bouvier had made, yet Wolters and Kluwer's edition lacks any such list or other such useful discovery feature, neither, to my discovery so far, does it contain any single one even as a separately listed topic. Perhaps this might be due to the fact that I purchased the "Compact Edition," however, I am still highly disappointed.All in all, this is a "good enough" dictionary. It will undoubtedly see use, but it lacks practically everything I was hoping to obtain out of buying "Bouvier."

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