

(Rights Against Insurers) Act 1930, the Policyholders Protection Act 1975, the Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act 1977, the Lloyds Act 1982 to the provisions of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 with the extensive Insurance Companies Regulations 1981 and the Financial Services Act 1986. As we are now in the Single Market of the European Community it is invaluable to have in Part 6 the full texts of all insurance directives.

This is the third edition of the Insurance Law Handbook and it is up-to-date as at 1st August 1992. Insurance Law is quite obviously a field which will continue to see rapid developments, especially with EC influence continuing to make its mark. That being the case, the publishers might wish to consider going over to a loose-leaf format, as that would enable them to provide subscribers with up-dates more-or-less immediately that relevant changes are made. Nevertheless, an excellent publication which is handy to use and easy to read. It is a great time-saver.

BOOK REVIEW

2. "STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS – A Practical Guide" Editors-in-chief – Iain Goldrein and Margaret de Haas.

Butterworths. 290 pages, soft cover £30.

In his Foreword The Honourable Mr. Justice Michael Wright refers to "the need for a clear and comprehensive guidebook to the principles underlying the structuring of a settlement" and this concise and neatly prepared publication certainly fulfils in its 290 pages that two-pronged requirement.

There is a team of authors drawn from specialists in the field including barristers, solicitors, claims managers and forensic accountants and we are taken from the general principles, with the advantages and disadvantages of a structured settlement, straight into the relevant case law which, surprisingly, starts with an 1858 decision concerning the structuring of the proceeds of sale of some buildings and land.

The approach to be taken by the solicitor acting for the plaintiff is then covered and it is emphasised that a structured settlement might have quite serious disadvantages for the recipient which should be made clear to him at the outset. The perspectives of the defendant are then covered and we are also given the

opportunity to read how the Exchequer views this development in personal injury litigation.

There is a look at the US experience and the book concludes with some very valuable appendices giving, inter alia, the text of the Practice Note on approval by the court and the Model Agreement.

Structured settlements do not seem so far to have taken off as quickly as some thought would be the case, but it is a fact that the availability of a structured settlement in some situations gives the injured party an alternative to which he might very well wish to turn. Certainly the concept brings us closer to some continental legal systems where annuities are the norm.

This "Practical Guide" will be invaluable to anyone involved in the personal injuries litigation process, be that as insurer, lawyer or accountant.

G.C.