

2. "GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF INSURANCE LAW"

By Professor E. R. Hardy Ivamy

Sixth Edition. Butterworths, Hard Cover £130

Developments in the insurance law field are taking place – both in the form of case law and legislation – at such a pace that it is no wonder that recent years have seen a steady flow of new publications or new editions of established works.

In some cases the authors restrict themselves to insurance contract law, e.g. Clarke and Merkin, whereas others including Colinvaux and MacGillivray cast the net wider and cover not only the contractual side but also the regulatory aspects.

It is into the latter category that the new edition of Professor Hardy Ivamy's work fits, a veritable magnum opus extending to just over 1,200 pages.

One interesting aspect of developments in the field of case law is the phenomenon of reinsurance disputes and in his Preface the author, in indicating where changes or developments have been taking place, quite regularly refers to a dispute in the reinsurance field.

The introductory section includes not only discussion of the nature of the insurance contract but also a very useful section on authorisation of insurance companies in the light of the most recent statutory developments.

Part II deals with the making of the contract and there is very full discussion of the problem areas of non-disclosure and misrepresentation with reference to the – at the moment still current – *Pan Atlantic v. Pine Top* litigation concerning exactly what a material circumstance is. However, the mention of the ABI Statements of Practice is of the original 1977 version, whereas there has in the meantime been an updated version published in 1986 and the brief chapter on the principle of good faith could perhaps have benefited from more discussion of the crucial decision in *Banque Financiere v. Westgate*.

Part III is headed "The Policy" and contains very comprehensive coverage of all aspects of an insurance policy once it has been issued, including the problems encountered upon renewal.

A considerable section of the book amounting to over 500 pages consists of various Appendices which give the reader easy reference to all relevant statutes, statutory instruments and EC Directives. This is a major work which contains a wealth of well-presented and readable information and which will be a welcome addition to the bookshelves of lawyers and insurers alike.

G.C.