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Smell Test: Stories and Advice for Lawyering

James C. Freund

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#2518595 in Books American Bar Association 2009-03-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.09 x .92 x 6.10l, 1.25 #File Name: 1604420898432 pages | File size: 25.Mb

James C. Freund : Smell Test: Stories and Advice for Lawyering before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Smell Test: Stories and Advice for Lawyering:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thought-provoking stories on the practice of lawBy Zeldock"Smell Test" is a unique book aimed at a specialized audience. It consists of 10 short stories, each followed by a chapter of commentary. All the stories involve lawyers who practice (or, in one instance, used to practice) with the fictional law firm Jenkins Price. Most of the stories involve lawyers involved in transactional work, as opposed to litigation.The idea is essentially to raise issues of professionalism and ethics through fiction. There's nothing like a detailed, realistic

narrative to draw the reader into a discussion of ethical rules, best practices, and sound decision-making. Instead of reading vague pronouncements about honesty and professional reputation, for example, we see individual lawyers who have a lot at stake struggling to manage a situation that has gone out of control. That is followed by the author's comments and questions, which draw out some of the story's lessons. What makes this book work is the fact that the author, James Freund, is himself a highly accomplished (now retired) partner of Skadden Arps, one of the world's biggest law firms. Among other things, he has written several excellent practice guides, including at least one undeniable classic, "Anatomy of a Merger." Needless to say, he knows what he's talking about. That not only has enabled him to create convincing characters and plots, but also has given him wisdom borne of experience. He provides guidance that only a veteran of many years in the trenches could give. This would be excellent reading for any lawyer in private practice, especially those in large firms. It would also work wonderfully, I should think, in a legal ethics course. Law students and anyone considering law as a career could also learn a great deal from "Smell Test."

Reading *Smell Test* is a great way to help you improve your lawyering skills and understand how to deal with similar situations while being entertained by the lively adventures of your fictional brethren. It also provides valuable primary materials for conducting training programs and professional seminars.