
Lawyers, judges and other professionals who have to work with laws often complain of their complexity. Ordinary citizens, too, are likely to be bemused by the unusual language and unappealing layout.

When Martin Cutts protested to the Government's law-writers about the obscurity of statutes, they challenged him to rewrite one.

So he did. 'Lucid Law', first published in 1994, set out the results of his work to rewrite and redesign the Timeshare Act, a law that gave new rights to people signing timeshare agreements. It also showed, in very simple terms, how the work was done.

Research for the project included testing the original and revised Acts with groups of aspiring lawyers and members of the public. Overwhelmingly, they found the revised version clearer and easier to use.

'Lucid Law' is a pioneering book that shows the main techniques for improving legal and, particularly, parliamentary drafting. This new edition includes a further example of redrafted legislation by Cutts in co-operation with tax and accountancy specialists, and describes some of the remarkable changes that began soon after the first edition.

Comments on the first edition

'A wonderful book.' NACAB booklist

'This report shows that, with the time, energy and inclination, statute law can be dramatically clarified.' Clarity



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