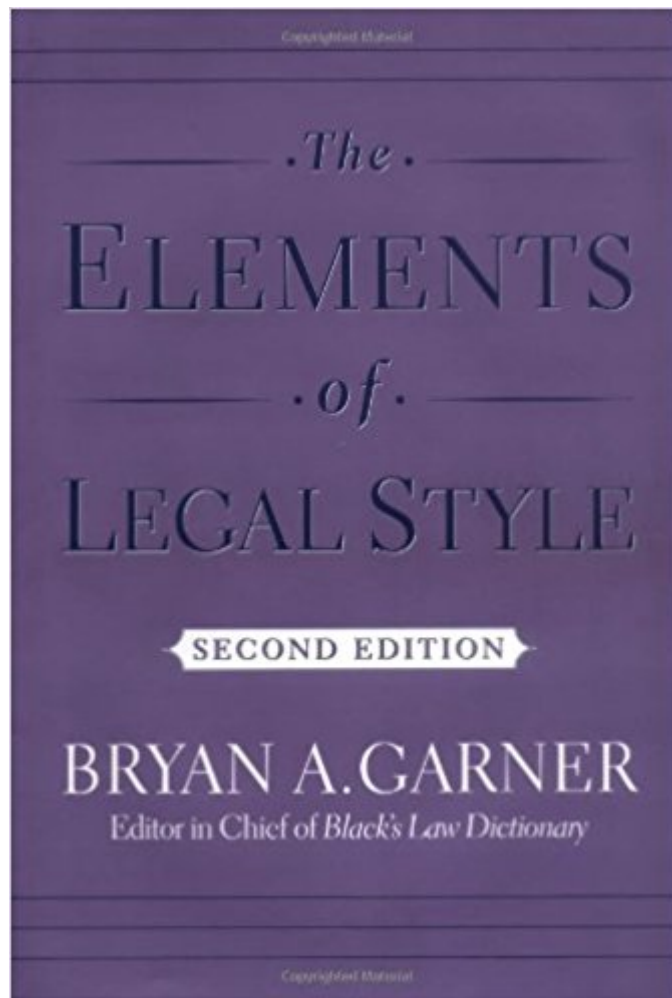The book was found

The Elements Of Legal Style

Synopsis

With expanded coverage in this new edition, The Elements of Legal Style features additional sections, many more examples, and a thoroughly researched appendix that contains 80 major statements on prose style--what it is and how to attain it.Inspired by Strunk and White's The Elements of Style, this book clearly (often wittily) explains the full range of what legal writers need to know: mechanics, word choice, structure, and rhetoric, as well as all the special conventions that legal writers should follow in using headings, defined terms, quotations, and many other devices. Garner also provides abundant examples from the best legal writers of yesterday and today, including Oliver Wendell Holmes, Clarence Darrow, Frank Easterbrook, and Antonin Scalia.If you want to make your writing clearer, more precise, more persuasive, and above all more stylish, The Elements of Legal Style offers the surest--and the most enjoyable--means to that end.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A decade after the key first edition, Garner, editor in chief of Black's Law Dictionary and other works on legal writing, provides expanded coverage of appropriate legal prose and common errors in legal language, with the goal of encouraging clarity in legal writing. Throughout, he emphasizes fundamental rules of usage and fundamental principles of legal writing that range from punctuation, word choice, and syntactic arrangement to various forms of repetition. Suggestions regarding word choice give a good indication of his approach: he guides writers to strike out and replace fancy words, challenge vague words, and eschew euphemisms. In the foreword, Charles Alan Wright

accurately comments that for lawyers "words are the only things we have to work with." Indeed, this book speaks not only to lawyers but to other writers as well, urging them to use style to develop persuasion, description, or analysis. Highly recommended for academic and larger public libraries. Steven Puro, St. Louis Univ. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

"Publishers each year spew out writing books for law students by the dozen. Forget them. This is the best. We had not believed that this classic work could be substantially improved. The inimitable Mr. Garner has proven this belief wrong, and happily so."-ABA Appellate Practice Journal"Garner has given to the legal profession [an] extraordinary book....Invaluable."--South Dakota Law Review"Bryan Garner...is rapidly becoming--if he's not there already--America's foremost authority on language and the law."--Barrister"An expanded and more relaxed edition of his 1991 sourcebook."--William Safire, New York Times Magazine

I bought this book in 1994 or so, and try to read it every year as a refresher course. You can read the entire book (skimming the examples) in a long weekend. Doing that will immessurably improve the coherence and power of your writing. This book has helped me. The examples are clear and relevant and relatively easy to use in your own writing.Garner has a real gift and this early book was just the first sign of his abilities. Enjoy!

First introduced to Bryan A. Garner at one of his brief writing seminar, several years ago, I have since been a loyal reader of his works.This book is (1) a reference book, (2) an invaluable resource, (3) more than just a grammar or style book ever thought of being, (4) chocked full of historical information and legal literary quotes, (5) presented in a humorous and accessible manner, and (6) the standard to which all legal writers should aspire.Poor writing and the use of legalese have always been bug-a-boos of mine. And, over the lifetime of my legal practice, having to slave over thousands of statutes, briefs, decisions, motions, etc., has only intensified my belief that too few lawyers know how to write well, and that the legal profession should abolish the use of legalese from the practice of law.In Mr. Garner, I have found a champion. In "The Elements of Legal Style", writers wishing to take their craft beyond the stars will find a valuable cache of information that will lay the foundations to improve their writing and persuading skills. He shows you how to remove the legalese from your writing, how to make your writing dynamic and exciting, and how to use your writing to better persuade. This book, along with "The Winning Brief", should be the foundation of your arsenal of writing tools.

Brian Garner is Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious Black's Law Dictionary, but his approach here is anything but stodgy. This book, published by Oxford University Press, looks at legal style in language. It includes his own set of 'rules' for usage, some of which will be familiar to most. As well, it has a marvelous section explaining carefully correct usages. One example: "Words and Expressions Confused and Misused." Garner also discusses "Speaking Legally" and "Expressive Tactics" - such as precisely when it is useful to repeat, in what ways tactics can be made more expressive, and how best to put forth a legal argument. He concludes with a sparkling collection of legal quotations on style. This is an excellent purchase for someone (1) looking for advanced-direction in legal English usage for writing and presentation, and (2) interested in learning to love legal writing more. Garner's examples are well-selected, and it has a full listing of the content topics inside the front and back covers, giving it a ready-reference quality. Quite readable, too, for such heady and easily boring stuff.

I am a physician who tested out of all college English to focus on science. Writing chart notes, scientific articles, or even parts of textbooks does not prepare one for the type of writing one must do when performing legal work.Scientific-technical writing, legal writing, or the best-selling novel all require different writing styles. Mr. Garner's book must be a help to law students based on other reviews but importantly to me; it is very accessable to those who have never attended law school.Legal style is a "style" that is important in the profession of law. If you do any work in this area at all, whether it is on the stand or writing essays, it behooves the non-lawyer to read this book. So, even though I agree with the glowing reviews from lawyers, this book may be even more important to those of us who must do legal work but have never been to law school.

Great book, great seller.

Garner takes what could be a boring subject, legal writing, and makes it entertaining and even exciting. I loved his common sense approach which promotes practicality and clarity, and eschews antiquated rules that no longer apply. Thank you, Bryan, for giving permission to discard old rules that don't make sense, and perhaps never did.

Great book for the practitioner. I just wish others were required to read it!

If you're in law school and you've not consulted Garner on legal writing, presuming you're not yet a perfect and flawless legal writer, then prioritize this book above all others next time you've any inclination whatsoever to work on that skill.

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