

Some Prefaces we have read

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Abstract: some amusing prefaces and forewords written by authors not suffering from false modesty or the need to ingratiate themselves with the reader.

We collaborated closely in writing this book, and, as lawyers say, we accept “joint and several responsibility” for it. In other words, I wrote the good bits, and he wrote the rest.

Chisholm & Nettheim, *Understanding Law* (1974)

Legal writers try to show good faith by listing all the good lawyers who have checked the proofs and made “helpful suggestions”. Then they put the blame for the index on some newly called young woman barrister. That is the one bit the author should write.

Nicholson, *Esprit de Law* (1974)

The views expressed are the personal views of the writer. This paper is read on the understanding that whatever steps are necessary in this day and age in order to avoid liability for negligent advice the writer is deemed to have taken such steps.

Pengilley, *Exclusive Dealing* (1980)

We acknowledge our grateful indebtedness to such snippets of man’s accumulated wisdom as we have been able to ingest and to plagiarize and to the purveyors of such insights, living and dead, whom we have encountered. Many have led us astray and, doubtless, are responsible for any infelicities or weaknesses in our work. If such blame is to be made specific, however, HWM, KM, AMP, HZ, and FZ bear a particular burden. Contrary to long-standing tradition, we accept responsibility for any virtues in this book.

Morris & Hawkins, *The Honest Politician’s Guide to Crime Control* (1970)

A number of people read portions of the manuscript in draft form and made comments and suggestions. It goes without saying that the book’s many deficiencies are entirely their fault, while any virtues it may possess are all my own.

McPhee, *The Second Book of Insults* (1981)



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