1790s, and early markets for shares in banks and other business corporations. Speculation fueled the Panics of 1819, 1837, 1873, 1893, 1901, 1907, 1920-21, the Great Depression (1929-1939) and the financial crisis of 2007-2009. This book is not about the crises themselves, or their causes, but the attitudes that led to them, and the manner in which the legal system has attempted to address them by distinguishing investing from gambling. It is also an attempt to distinguish between good speculation and bad speculation. The questions raised by the financial crisis of 2007-2009 were some of the same questions Americans had debated for more than two centuries. They agreed that while investment was necessary and should be encouraged, gambling, though having lost some its moral stigma, was often harmful and should be discouraged. Speculation lay somewhere in the middle, and efforts to regulate it must distinguish between good and bad speculation, however defined. And in the author’s view, drawing that line has never been easy, nor is it any easier today. The chapters in this volume discuss the history of speculation in the United States, betting on prices, the anti-option era, selling blue sky, aftershocks of the crash, land and onions, insider information, speculation or investment, and deregulation and crisis. This volume represents a major contribution to the literature on securities law, investment practices generally, and the legislative efforts to regulate its excesses. Stuart Banner is Associate Professor of History, Duke University.


Cost: $47; eBook: $35.25; from $30.28 (print); or $21.26 (Kindle) on amazon.com.

This is a brief and basic overview of securities law written for law students, but also useful to practitioners, and laypersons. Detail and citations to cases and statutes are held to a minimum. Topical coverage includes regulation of public offerings, regulation of publicly held companies, antifraud provisions, regulation of the securities business, regulation of investment companies, sanctions for violations, civil liabilities, extraterritorial application, and state regulation.


Cost: $49; eBook: $40.99; from $41.72 (print) and $40.99 (Kindle) on amazon.com.

One of a series of reasonably-priced scholarly monographs in the publisher’s Legal Text Series, this volume provides a general overview of the issues likely to be covered in a basic securities regulation course. The author, the Radford Professor of Law at the Southern Methodist University School of Law, is the author of numerous treatises and law review articles on securities issues. The text’s coverage encompasses the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and state securities statutes. Individual chapters are devoted to the definition of a security, issuer exemptions from registration, the registration process, resales and reorganizations, due diligence and securities act liability, section 10(b) and related issues, alternative remedies, secondary liability, issuer affirmative disclosure, insider trading, broker-dealer regulation, corporate control acquisitions and contests, and SEC enforcement. The appendices include a glossary of terms, the text of relevant acts and SEC rules, and tables of cases, statutes, rules, regulations, and releases.

SENIORS
(see Elder Law)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
(see Labor and Employment Law)

SMALL CLAIMS COURT AND SELF-REPRESENTATION

Small claims court, also called a conciliation court, is a state court of limited jurisdiction that provides expedient, informal, and inexpensive adjudication of small claims involving an amount of money below a set dollar amount. The monetary limits vary from state to state, but range from a low of $2,500 in Rhode Island and Kentucky to a high of $25,000 in Tennessee. Most parties represent themselves in small claims court because the expense of hiring an attorney would defeat the purpose for which such courts were created. Lawyers are prohibited in some states, but allowed in others.

The first small claims court was created in Cleveland in 1913, and the concept was quickly adopted in other states. The typical small claims action involves the collection of small debts, eviction, return of security deposit, back rent, broken or damaged property, automobile accidents, and disputes between landlords and tenants. Business and utilities will frequently seek judgments for unpaid debts against multiple defendants to render the process more economical.

Bringing an action in small claims court requires the completion of a form available from the court administrator, that form requiring the names and addresses of all defendants, a simple statement of the dispute, a claim for the amount of money involved, and a small filing fee. The complaint must be properly served on the defendant to be valid. Many jurisdictions require electronic filing. If the plaintiff is successful,