

Michigan Law Review

Volume 47 | Issue 6

1949

Philbrick: LANGUAGE AND THE LAW.

Michigan Law Review

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Recommended Citation

Michigan Law Review, *Philbrick: LANGUAGE AND THE LAW*, 47 MICH. L. REV. 871 ().

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LANGUAGE AND THE LAW. By *Frederick A. Philbrick*. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1949. Pp. ix, 254. \$3.75.

As a supplement to his earlier book on the semantics of English, Mr. Philbrick has written this book particularly for judges and lawyers on the semantics of forensic English. The thesis which he develops is the influence that words may exert on the law and legal thinking. Broadly speaking, thought may be expressed in two types of language: the factual and the emotive. The former style of expression is concrete, precise, specific and limited in statements of value to those which may be physically measured; the latter is abstract, vague and general and may include statements of values measurable only by unverifiable human judgment. Conceding that the most forceful presentation of one aspect of an argumentative proposition is usually achieved through the factual type of expression, successful argumentation of the opposite aspect may on occasion demand language which will prevent the hearer from thinking too clearly about the object of the discourse. The emotive style of expression satisfies this demand. It is the function of these two forensic styles, the significance of bias words, metaphor and indefinite evaluation, which Mr. Philbrick discusses. Since the book is "illustrative rather than didactic," frequent reference is made to exemplary judicial opinions, examinations of witnesses and addresses to the jury. In the last half of his book, the author analyzes the pertinent parts of four famous cases in the light of the principles he has developed.