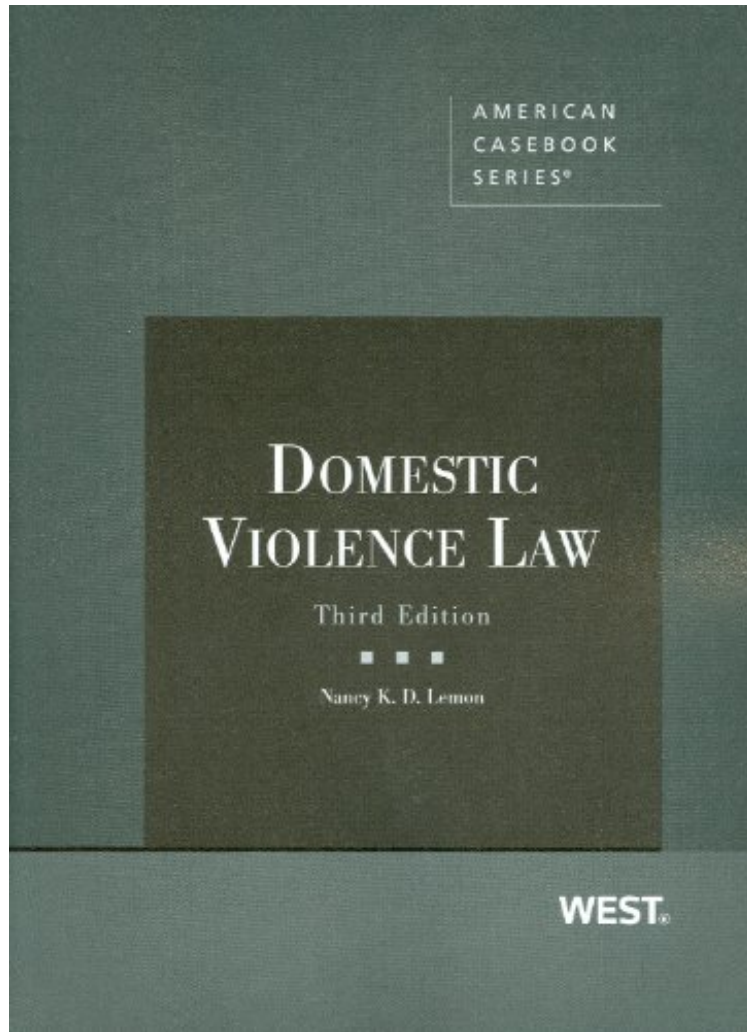


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## Domestic Violence Law (American Casebooks) (American Casebook Series)

*Nancy Lemon*

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**Nancy Lemon : Domestic Violence Law (American Casebooks) (American Casebook Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Domestic Violence Law (American Casebooks) (American Casebook Series):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. updated version of a classic legal resourceBy crim law profNancy Lemon is a leader in the field of domestic violence law. This edition of the Domestic Violence Law text brings together classic cases and interdisciplinary legal scholarship. Like previous editions, it is an essential text for any attorney or law student, but will also be of use to advocates and others who seek to understand domestic violence and

the legal response to it in historical legal perspective. 15 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Book full of Myths By Paul Linn The article "Persistent Myths in Feminist Scholarship" in Chronicle of Higher Ed by Christina Hoff Sommers exposes a number of inaccuracies in this book. "The history of women's abuse began over 2,700 years ago in the year 753 BC. It was during the reign of Romulus of Rome that wife abuse was accepted and condoned under the Laws of Chastisement. ... The laws permitted a man to beat his wife with a rod or switch so long as its circumference was no greater than the girth of the base of the man's right thumb. The law became commonly known as 'The Rule of Thumb.' These laws established a tradition which was perpetuated in English Common Law in most of Europe." Where to begin? How about with the fact that Romulus of Rome never existed. He is a figure in Roman mythology -- the son of Mars, nursed by a wolf. Problem 2: The phrase "rule of thumb" did not originate with any law about wife beating, nor has anyone ever been able to locate any such law. It is now widely regarded as a myth, even among feminist professors. A few pages later, in a selection by Joan Zorza, a domestic-violence expert, students read, "The March of Dimes found that women battered during pregnancy have more than twice the rate of miscarriages and give birth to more babies with more defects than women who may suffer from any immunizable illness or disease." Not true. When I recently read Zorza's assertion to Richard P. Leavitt, director of science information at the March of Dimes, he replied, "That is a total error on the part of the author. There was no such study." The myth started in the early 1990s, he explained, and resurfaces every few years."

Through articles, book excerpts, cases, and statutes, the author encourages discussion of the legal system's role in domestic violence situations. Topics range from historical and basic issues, such as restraining orders and tort suits, to controversial ones, including marital rape, arrest and prosecution policies, and battered mothers charged with failure to protect their children from batterers. Other chapters cover how domestic violence impacts different groups. Additional topics include guns, confidentiality and safety, and victims as welfare recipients, workers, tenants, and applicants for asylum. The materials foster critical thinking among students, as they include contradictory points of view.