

CHINA LAW READER

中国法律读本

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China Law Reader

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China Law Reader

Table of Contents

v	Acknowledgements
vii	Authors of Introductions to the Readings
1	Introduction to the <i>China Law Reader</i>
11	A Brief Legal History of Modern China
15	Chapter 1 – Constitutional Law
17	a. Introduction to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China.
19	b. Constitution of the PRC
23	c. Vocabulary of Constitution of the PRC
39	Chapter 2 – Legislation Law
41	a. Introduction to the Legislation Law
43	b. Legislation Law
48	c. Vocabulary of Legislation Law
59	d. Red-Titled Documents (2010)
61	e. Vocabulary of Red-Titled Documents (2010)

69	Chapter 3 – Contract Law
71	a. Introduction to Contract Law in the PRC
73	b. Contract Law
76	c. Vocabulary of Contract Law
87	d. Supreme Court Interpretations (May 2009)
92	e. Vocabulary of Superme Court Interpretations (May 2009)
109	Chapter 4 – Labor Contract Law
111	a. Introduction to China's Labor Contract Law
113	b. Labor Contract Law
115	c. Vocabulary of Labor Contract Law
125	d. Standard Labor Contract
131	e. Vocabulary of Standard Labor Contract
149	Chapter 5 – Property Law
151	a. Introduction to China's Property Law System
153	b. Property Rights Law (2007)
162	c. Vocabulary of Property Rights Law (2007)
185	d. Property Law Circular 171 (2006)
188	e. Vocabulary of Property Law circular 171 (2006)
201	Chapter 6 – Intellectual Property / Criminal Law
203	a. Introduction to China's Intellectual Property Law System

205	b. Intellectual Property Law / Criminal Law Selections
208	c. Vocabulary of Intellectual Property / Criminal Law
217	Chapter 7 – Anti-Trust Law
219	a. Introduction to China's Anti-Monopoly Law System
221	b. Anti-Monopoly Law
227	c. Vocabulary of Anti-Monopoly Law
244	d. Anti-Monopoly Bureau Decision
246	e. Vocabulary of Anti-Monopoly Bureau Decision
253	Chapter 8 – Environmental Law
255	a. Introduction to China's Environmental Laws
257	b. Environmental Protection Law
261	c. Vocabulary of Environmental Protection Law
279	d. Shanghai City Environmental Protection Regulations
283	e. Vocabulary of Shanghai City Environmental Protection Regulations
295	Chapter 9 – Banking Law
297	a. Introduction to China's Banking Law System
299	b. Law of the People's Republic of China on the People's Bank of China (2003)
303	c. Vocabulary of Law of the Peoples Republic of China on the People's Bank of China (2003)
318	d. Notice of the China Banking Regulatory Commission on Further

	Strengthening Mortgage Loan Risk Management
321	e. Vocabulary of Notice of the China Banking Regulatory Commission on Further Strengthening Mortgage Loan Risk Management
335	Chapter 10 – Company Law
337	a. Introduction to the Company Law in the People’s Republic of China
339	b. Company Law (2006)
342	c. Vocabulary of Company Law (2006)
353	Chapter 11 – Court Decisions
355	a. Introduction to Case Law
356	b. Court Decisions
389	Chapter 12 – Lawyer’s Work
391	a. Release of Letter of Guarantee
393	b. Vocabulary of Release of Letter of Guarantee
398	c. Law Office E-mail
400	d. Vocabulary of Law Office E-mail
405	Chapter 13 – Researching Chinese Law
407	Introduction to Chinese Legal Research
414	Index
420	China Law Reader Co-Author CVs

Introduction to the *China Law Reader*

中国 法律 读本

Zhōngguó Fǎlǚ Dúběn

Welcome to the *China Law Reader* (CLR)!

The primary purpose of the CLR is to introduce you to the language of Chinese law. The ideal user is someone who has completed at least two years of Chinese language study and is now ready to read actual law-related Chinese language texts in order to learn the specialized language of Chinese law. A side benefit of the CLR is to provide a broad introduction to the nature and substance of Chinese law.

The selections may be read in any order. Each selection has a complete, independent vocabulary section. As you read through several selections, you will begin to see some repetition in vocabulary and grammar patterns. These patterns and vocabulary, together with the vocabulary specific to each area of law, represent the language of Chinese law.

Few of the selections are complete texts. This is because the primary purpose of the CLR is to in-

troduce the reader to the language of Chinese law, not Chinese law itself. Thus, we opted for breadth rather than depth in order to expose the reader to a wide variety of legal documents and areas of law. Each text was selected based on several objective and subjective criteria including importance of the material, “hot topic” issues and the personal preferences of the authors.

Where applicable, each selection includes a URL for the original text. In selecting readings, we discovered that there are many corrupted versions of the original texts available on line, even on Chinese government websites. This adds to the complexity of researching Chinese law, a topic which will be touched on in a separate section of the CLR.

Related, we chose not to provide citations to English language translations of the readings. In preparing the text, we reviewed a number of these translations and often found wide variation among