

Review of *Advocacy - A Practical Guide* by Peter Lyons

Mark Belshaw, Essex Court Chambers

Starting off as a new practitioner can be a daunting prospect. From what I have heard, that is a feeling that will stay with me for some years to come as I step into courtrooms around the country.

As a solicitor transferring to the Bar, I was especially conscious of the fact that my peers will doubtless have received more formal advocacy training than I have.

Advocacy – A Practical Guide by Peter Lyons has helped me to confront that concern and to relax into a personal style of advocacy that is, I hope, both persuasive and effective.

One of the things that made the book stand out was its comprehensiveness, including chapters covering subjects that often don't receive enough attention in advocacy books. Case analysis and professional conduct spring to mind – both essential for being a good advocate, but often overlooked.

This comprehensive style is, at least in part, what makes this such a great companion for junior advocates. I often find myself dipping into various individual chapters when relevant to any given piece of advocacy I am preparing for. This has been a huge help in encouraging me to adapt my style and to focus on the nuances that are appropriate on each occasion.

Above all else, what really keeps me going back to this book isn't just its practical utility, but the fact that it isn't a chore to read. I find that books on advocacy can tend to be dry and require a real effort to get through. That wasn't the case with this book.

The historical excerpts, funny stories and characteristic tongue-in-cheek remarks were engaging and made the subject approachable and relatable. For me, it exemplifies what good advocacy is: telling a compelling story.

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