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Justice Holland Co-authors New Law School Textbook

Justice Randy J. Holland of the Delaware Supreme Court is one of the co-authors of a new law school textbook. The title is *State Constitutional Law, The Modern Experience*. It is published by West as part of the American Casebook Series.

The focus of this book is on the fifty state constitutions. It emphasizes the interrelation between state constitutions and the federal Constitution. The book explains how the U.S. Constitution deals with an issue before discussing how the state constitutions handle the same subject or, in some instances, it addresses how the state constitutions contain provisions that have no parallel in the U.S. Constitution.

States often grant more expansive rights in their own constitutions than those that are afforded by the federal Constitution. The expansion beyond federally guaranteed individual liberties by a state constitution is attributable to a variety of reasons: differences in textual language, legislative history, pre-existing state law, structural differences, matters of particular concern, and state traditions.

State constitutional law, like its federal counterpart, is not limited to issues involving individual rights. Numerous other areas of law involve the application of state constitutions. The structure and power of state and local governments, the state judicial system, taxation, public finance, property rights, school funding and public education are all affected by a state's constitutions and its interpretation.

Lawyers in all fifty states take an oath to support the United States Constitution and the constitution of their state. The Conference of Chief Justices of the United States recently passed a resolution encouraging all law schools to offer a course on state constitutional law. That resolution noted that "although all law schools offer a course in constitutional law, the overwhelming majority of those cases are taught from the perspective of the federal Constitution." The resolution also states that "being a competent and effective lawyer requires an understanding of both the federal Constitution and state constitutional law."

This is the second law school textbook co-authored by Justice Holland. The other one is *Appellate Practice and Procedure*, also published by West. Justice Holland has also written two books about the Delaware Constitution.

For additional information, please contact Stephen D. Taylor, Court Administrator of the Delaware Supreme Court, at 302-577-8742 or Steve.Taylor@state.de.us