

BY FAITH KLEPPER

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# READING THE GREEN

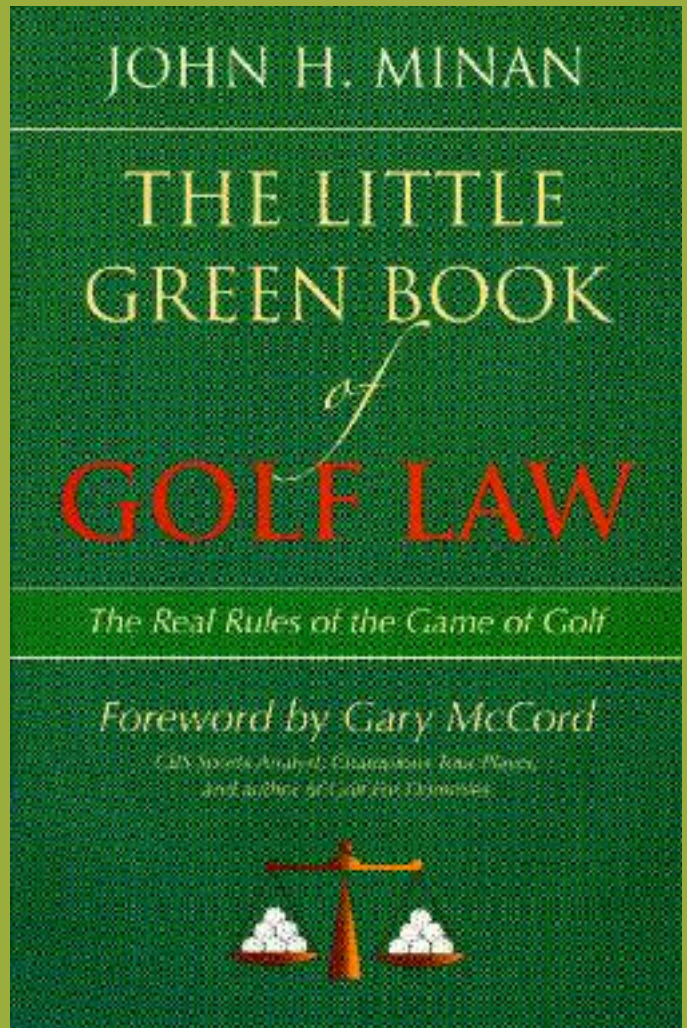
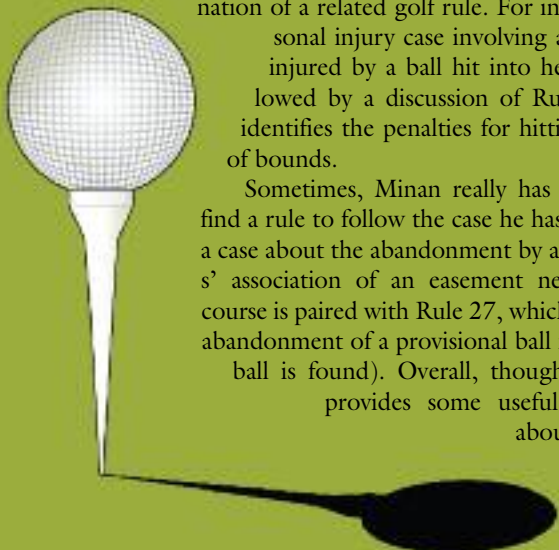
Considering how many lawyers play golf in this state, it comes as no surprise that someone finally wrote a book combining the two subjects and sent it to us here at ARIZONA ATTORNEY to review (what took so long?).

University of San Diego Law Professor John Minan says he wrote *The Little Green Book of Golf Law* to allow others to share his passion for golf and the law. Although Minan's passions are evident, the book itself lacks a strong narrative, primarily because the author never seems sure who his audience is. The book is almost certainly written for non-lawyers. At least I certainly hope so, because Minan provides a three-page overview of the American judicial system, including a brief synopsis on how to read a citation to help find the cases discussed in the book. However, anyone passionate enough about golf to want to read a book on the law of golf is likely to be familiar with several golf terms that the author explains, including *hook*, *slice* and *handicap*. (Don't even get me started on why he felt the need to include a footnote explaining who Yosemite Sam is.)

The book is cleverly divided into 19 chapters called "Holes," each of which discusses a real case that has something to do with golf. The 19th chapter discusses a civil action that arose from a drunken assault at the golf course bar (cheeky, that).

At the end of each chapter, Minan gives a brief explanation of a related golf rule. For instance, a personal injury case involving a homeowner injured by a ball hit into her yard is followed by a discussion of Rule 27, which identifies the penalties for hitting a ball out of bounds.

Sometimes, Minan really has to stretch to find a rule to follow the case he has chosen (*e.g.*, a case about the abandonment by a homeowners' association of an easement next to a golf course is paired with Rule 27, which requires the abandonment of a provisional ball if the original ball is found). Overall, though, the author provides some useful information about the game



**The Little Green Book of Golf Law**  
by John H. Minan

Paper, 176 pages  
American Bar Association  
[www.abanet.org/abastore](http://www.abanet.org/abastore)  
ISBN 1590318455  
2007, \$19.95

in these sections, once you get past the corny jokes.

Minan obviously had fun writing the book and, of course, he includes the requisite references to the movies *Caddyshack* and *Tin Cup*, but there is little cohesiveness here. The cases cover a wide range of legal specialties, from personal injury and real estate to patent and even tax law. (And, yes, the Casey Martin ADA suit is included.) However, the coverage of each case is superficial and unlikely to be helpful to a lawyer litigating a similar matter. (The book also includes a foreword by Gary McCord, CBS Sports analyst, Champions Tour Player—and author of *Golf for Dummies*.)

The only overriding lesson to be taken from this book appears to be that there are innumerable ways to spoil a good game of golf by getting lawyers involved. However, if you don't mind a little golf in your law or law in your golf, *The Little Green Book of Golf Law* isn't a bad way to kill some time. Just try not to think about these lawsuits next time you're on the links; it'll kill your backswing. **BT**