I was reluctant to read, never mind review, another combination law and ethics treatise. Typically they serve neither area adequately and often muddle the two topics in the attempt. In contrast to my expectations, Hall’s book is refreshing reading that covers an enormous amount of subject matter succinctly yet effectively. This book is not written specifically for pharmacy and consequently takes a broader view aimed at a variety of health care practitioners. It discusses well an extraordinary range of concepts and issues in both law and ethics that are applicable to both teaching and the practice of pharmacy.

Chapter titles only hint at chapter content. The discussion within each chapter ranges widely but flows logically as if one were discussing a topic and expanding on the associated issues. Expected issues in law and ethics are covered as are many novel and pleasing topics that most such books never mention. This enjoyable work contains discussions of approximately 300 distinct issues. Rather than attempt to list the most interesting, I would refer the reader to http://webpages.acs.ttu.edu/hwerner/hall.html for a complete table of contents.

The text is uniquely and logically structured. At times background and nuances of the law are discussed; at other times the basic theory or complex issues of ethics may be discussed. Often, linking these sections are insightful discussions that logically couple the two. Many of the concepts and insights expressed are unique and stimulating. In skimming the book or looking at the table of contents it may appear the book is arranged in a random manner. In reading the volume it becomes clear that the sections, topics, and issues flow in a logical manner, building from introductory and background materials to complex issues where appropriate.

I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in law or ethics or simply as thought-provoking reading for anyone in the health professions. Similarly, anyone with a curiosity about the origins, operations, vocabulary, and essentials of law would be pleased to read Hall’s work. A couple of obvious drawbacks to the format of the book are the index is essentially useless and the tables and figures are not numbered. Reading the book as a novel is enjoyable, but these drawbacks tend to make the book a poor candidate as a text for classroom use.

Compared to similar books, I wholeheartedly recommend Hall’s writing. It offers considerably more breadth and insight than others I have read. In my opinion there was not a tedious or dry section to be found. Hall’s writing style is enjoyable and she expresses her thoughts well. Her ideas and insights are educational and inspiring. Even for someone teaching in these areas there is ample inspiration for new thought.

I recommend this book for the personal library of those associated with the health care professions. It provides an opportunity to acquire an excellent understanding of the law, the legal system, ethics, and some of the simple and complex ethical issues associated with health care. Similarly it has earned a place in pharmacy college libraries. I do not recommend the book as a text for a combined pharmacy law and ethics course. I do not think that undergraduate students would relate well with the organization and flow of material. It is my opinion that they would express significant confusion and would better relate to other texts.

Corresponding Author: Laurence A. Kennedy, PhD. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Butler University, 4600 Sunset Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46208-3485. Tel: 317-940-6144. Fax: 317-940-6172. E-mail: lkennedy@butler.edu