

Donald Wilson's book, *Easements & Reversions* (Landmark Enterprises, 1991. ISBN 9780910845434) was one of the first books I ever owned after being employed as a rodman nearly thirty years ago. At only 107 pages, I read it cover to cover in one sitting. I have enjoyed his writing and attended his seminars since. I looked forward to reading this new book from the time I first heard about it. It was worth the wait.

For the record, Donald Wilson and I do not share any common ancestors within the last few generations. We are not related, except by the love of our profession.

This book is very different from most previous works on boundary retracement. It does not limit itself to a small geographical area of the country, bog down in recitations of principles or comes across as a cookbook approach to boundaries. Rather, this book tries to teach the reader how to think about boundary retracement, resolving and reconciling discrepancies, recognizing evidence and the like.

When all four corners of the surveyed property are clearly marked, accurately documented and accepted and respected by the owners, the surveyor's job is trivial. It is when those elements are in opposition to each other that the surveyor's work truly begins. It is incumbent on the surveyor to resolve the issues to the satisfaction of all parties and in a manner that will stand up to judicial scrutiny, if necessary. This book is designed to guide the rookie, assist the more experienced and still offer something to the veteran.

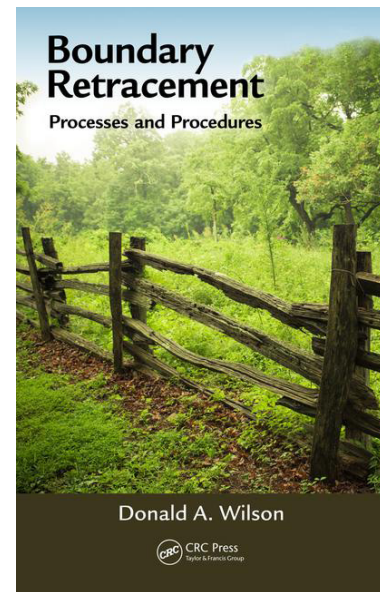
In each section, Wilson presents the basic concept, outlines the issues and presents cases with chunks of appellate decisions. He follows up with a discussion of the relevant issues and the significant points from the cases. Even though the cases are from a specific state, the cases presented are, for the most part, global in scope. The cases can be used as the basis for searches for similar cases in the reader's jurisdictions. The reader should be able to take away lessons on how to think about similar situations and how to resolve issues within the context of judicial thinking.

The passages from the judicial decisions presented cover the reasoning behind the decisions. In several cases, the passages run to many pages of the book (one case covered six pages). The excerpts could have been pared down without losing any of the points of the decisions or the lessons Wilson makes from them.

The two appendices were particularly interesting. In each, Wilson provides a breakdown, by state, of significant cases. The first appendix covers cases on following footsteps of a previous surveyor. The second covers cases of lost corners. They provide an interesting comparison of how these issues are treated by each of the fifty states.

The Table of Authorities is a list of the cases found in the text and the pages on which the case is cited. While not standard practice in legal texts, it would have been a nice addition to provide a note with each case as to which state the case was from.

There are only 47 illustrations in the book. Unfortunately, many are too pixelated or blurry to read or properly understand. The quality of the copied pictorial exhibits really distracts from reading the book. Future editions should address this significant shortcoming.



Boundary Retracement: Process and Procedures

Donald A. Wilson

CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL, 2017. xxi and 474 pp. B/W pictures, diagrams, plats, Table of Authorities, Index. Hardcover. \$149.95. ISBN 9781498727105.

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The book is a hardback, but the binding is a glue up of individual sheets stuck into a hard binding. This binding style does not stand up to the user that this book will surely get from its owners. At \$150 per copy, I expected a better, more durable binding style.

Even with its lengthy appellate decisions passages, fuzzy illustrations, and glued binding, this book really does belong in the library of anyone who considers themselves a practitioner of the art of land surveying. It will not spend much time on the shelf as it will become well used and often read. This book will take some getting through because the material will challenge the reader to think and recall similar surveys in the reader's past. For those who have had the privilege of attending one of Wilson's seminars, it will be very difficult to read the book without "hearing" and enjoying every word in Don's voice.

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