

(Mobile ebook) Slavery, the Civil Law, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana

Slavery, the Civil Law, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana

Judith Kelleher Schafer

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Judith Kelleher Schafer : Slavery, the Civil Law, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slavery, the Civil Law, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another look at an underreported side of the issue. By oldgal I think this book is for the person who wants to know more about the laws undergirding slavery, whether for research purposes or to understand another layer of the issue. I found it to be informative as well as interesting, and because it quotes so many laws and court cases, to also be credible. Information spans America from it's inception as English, French and Spanish Colonies, throughout United States of America history. I do recommend it.

Constituting what may be the most impressive research to date of state supreme court records, Slavery, the Civil Law, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana analyzes the evolution of Louisiana's slave laws from the territorial period to the Civil War. Over the course of four years, Judith Kelleher Schafer examined the original handwritten decisions (only recently made available) of the Louisiana Supreme Court, scrutinizing 1,200 appeals involving slaves as plaintiffs, defendants, or objects in lawsuits or criminal actions. The result is the first book-length study of those manuscripts and the first study of any state's slave law and its courts to use original case records from the entire antebellum era. Louisiana's legal system was unique among those of southern slave states in that it embodied a legacy of French, Spanish, and thus, indirectly, Roman law. However, through repeated exposure to common-law tenets over time - a development Schafer traces Louisiana law became more "Americanized," so that by the dawn of the Civil War it was

in many respects very similar to that of other states seceding from the Union. Louisiana was unusual also in that its highest court was required to hear virtually every case brought to it on appeal. Decisions of that body, therefore, represent not merely a few landmark cases but a spectrum of typical parish- and district-court cases, many of which include vivid details about the day-to-day realities of slavery and the world that formed, and was formed by, that institution. Schafer presents numerous concise case histories, stories that are fascinating and at times heartbreaking in the particulars they reveal about slaves' existence. We see how the court continually wrestled with the paradox that slaves were considered by the law to be at once persons and property. Property considerations usually won out: even cases involving the abuse or killing of slaves often came before the court as civil matters rather than criminal. Slavery, the Ci

From the Back Cover In what may be the most impressive research to date of state supreme court records, this study analyzes the evolution of Louisiana's slave laws from the territorial period to the Civil War. Schafer presents numerous concise case histories, stories that are fascinating and at times heartbreaking in the particulars they reveal about slaves' existence. Anyone interested in slavery will find Schafer's work riveting reading, for it depicts in detail, probably better than most fictional or narrative accounts, what living in bondage could mean. About the Author Judith Kelleher Schafer is associate director of the Murphy Institute of Political Economy at Tulane University, visiting professor of law at Tulane Law School, and book review editor of the American Journal of Legal History.