

The 11th International, Invention, Innovation & Design 2022

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Ushering in the Age of Endemic

THE 11TH INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION, INVENTION & DESIGN COMPETITION INDES 2022

EXTENDED ABSTRACTS BOOK



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LAW CASES IN COMICS FOR STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Case law is one of the sources of law. It is unavoidable that students who are taking law courses must read case law reports. When reading case law, students must pay attention to four important elements. They are the material facts, legal issues, decision, and reasons for the decision. Reading case law report can take several hours as most of the reports are very lengthy. Furthermore, reading is also very challenging for students because visual communication becomes more powerful in this digital era. The legal language used in the law report is sometimes also difficult to understand. Thus, this innovation transforms a thick case law report into an attractive comic that includes all the information needed by the students. This comic can serve as an attractive additional learning material for students taking law courses. At the same time students can improve their understanding of the case law in a quick and interesting way and incite their interest in reading case law.

Keyword: Law, Introduction to Law

1. INTRODUCTION

Reading law always comes together with the words boring, need a lot of reading, hard to understand and stressful especially for a non-law student. Law subject appears to be a non-popular subject among non-law students, which may cause them to struggle in their study (Allen, 2007). One of the factors for those skeptical is case law. Case law is one of the sources of law where the ability to read and understand law cases is one of the essential skills for law students. This skill will differentiate the ability and performance of students in law subjects (Ariffin, 2014). It is unavoidable that students who are taking law courses must read case law reports. Previous scholars also stated that the study of cases is typically where the study of law begins (Pattent, 2016).

When reading case law, students must pay attention to four important elements which are the material facts, legal issue, decision, and reasons for the decision (Makdisi & Makdisi, 2009). In order to trace and identify those elements, most of the time, students need to read the case law more than once. At the same time, reading case law reports can take several hours as most of the reports are very lengthy. According to a study by Adlin (2014), some students mentioned that it is a challenge for them to read lengthy legal judgment because it can cause boredom (Ariffin, 2014). Besides, there is a study that states that studying law may put pressure on the students and may cause them to suffer depressioned (Beck & Burns, 1979). This situation may cause students to lose interest in studying law, especially for non-law students. A study stated that the traditional way of teaching law is not suitable for non-law students, where the lecturer



needs to find a new approach (Allen, 2007). Another scholar also mentioned that the material for non-law students should be simpler compared to law students (Blake, 1984). Most of the time, students prefer a simpler version or summaries version of law cases from textbooks (Ariffin, 2014). Therefore, to make studying law more interesting and enjoyable, we convert selected landmark law cases into comics.

2. METHODOLOGY

A case study is an approach that helps in the analysis of a phenomena within a specific context using various sources of information, and it does so through a range of lenses in order to disclose many features of the phenomenon (Rashid et al., 2019). Another scholar also agrees that case studies are "based on extensive and diverse information sources." It introduces the concept of data within the framework of a wider discussion on case study as a flexible approach that accepts a "palette of methods" and considers data as "impressionistic" (Magolda, 2017). Therefore, to make the case study more interesting, it had been converting into digital comic. This is because comics, as a multimodal composition, provides significant advantages for educating students to react cogently and adeptly to the composition demands of the modern era (Muyassaroh et al., 2019).

In order to convert a case law into comic, the first step is to identify which case law is suitable and appropriate depending on the importance of the case, fact of the case and relevancy to the subject. So, in this innovation project, the case study of Donoghue v Stevenson had been chosen as a subject of innovation from Norcahaya Talib on Torts in Malaysia. This case is a landmark case for negligence where in this case, the defendant had been found guilty of negligence when they failed to ensure the product that was produced, the ginger beer, was safe to be consumed by Plaintiff (Azmi, 2021). After that, we need to identify the four important elements which are material facts, legal issues, decision, and reasons for the decision to be included in the comic. Then, we create a story board for the comic so that we can confirm the flow of the facts of the case and all relevant information will be included in the comic and to ensure that students can understand the comic.

3. FINDINGS

When we use this comic in classes, we receive good feedback from students where they enjoyed the lesson, and it is much easier to understand the facts of the case and other essential elements compared to normal wording explanations.

4. CONCLUSION

This teaching innovation can help students, especially the non-law students, to enjoy studying law subjects.



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