

**Lynd, Staughton and Daniel Gross. *Labor Law For the Rank & Filer: Building Solidarity While Staying Clear Of The Law*. Oakland: PM Press, 2008. Pp. 110. \$10 (paperback). ISBN 978-1604860337**

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In recent years self-help books have moved from being a cottage industry to a burgeoning segment of the publishing business. Self-help books for “idiots” and “dummies” cover a vast realm of themes ranging from health, to diet and fitness, to dating and business plans. Yet the tidal wave of self-help books has not tackled thorny issues such as workers' rights. First published in 1978 (with revised editions in 1982 and 2008), *Labor Law For the Rank & Filer: Building Solidarity While Staying Clear Of The Law* prefigured the current self-help revolution and seeks to address workers' rights in the workplace. This book is written by life-long labor and civil rights activist Staughton Lynd, a former university professor who was marginalized in the academy due to that activism, and then became a lawyer in an effort to further his causes. Joining Lynd as co-author is Daniel Gross, a community and union organizer with the Industrial Workers of the World.

Collectively, Lynd and Gross carry the torch for a prior generation of labor activists (who produced earlier editions of the book) with the express belief that workers should be aware of their workplace rights through practical knowledge of applicable labor law. Thus *Labor Law For the Rank & Filer* is a do-it-yourself book to enable workers to have both a basic understanding of labor law and the ability to resolve workplace issues, without necessarily having to engage the services of the legal fraternity.

In this manner, self education becomes both a learning moment and a solidarity building exercise. The authors note that within the workplace, if an employee is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement (that

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