Littleton

Or: how we learned to stop compiling and love the law

Basu, Mohan, Grimmelmann, and Foster at ProLaLa ’22
Lawyers don’t read ASTs
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Orlando is a PL for property law:

1 0 owns P.
2 0 conveys P to A for life, then to B.
Lawyers don’t read ASTs

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1 0 owns P.
2 0 conveys P to A for life, then to B.
Lawyers don’t read ASTs

Orlando is a PL for property law:

1. $O$ owns P.
2. $O$ conveys P to A for life, then to B.

Littleton makes this palatable:

- $O$ owns P.
- $O$ conveys P to A for life, then to B.
A dynamic sandbox

Allow users to experiment with:

• further conveyances
• life events
A dynamic sandbox

Allow users to experiment with:
- further conveyances
- life events

1. O owns P.
2. O conveys P to A for life, then to B.
A dynamic sandbox

Allow users to experiment with:
• further conveyances
• life events

1. O owns P.
2. O conveys P to A for life, then to B.
3. A conveys P to C for life.
A dynamic sandbox

Allow users to experiment with:

• further conveyances
• life events

1. O owns P.
2. O conveys P to A for life, then to B.
3. A conveys P to C for life.
A dynamic sandbox

Allow users to experiment with:

• further conveyances
• life events

1. O owns P.
2. O conveys P to A for life, then to B.
3. A conveys P to C for life.
4. A dies.
Bringing legal nuance to the fore

The law cares about how you came to own something.
Bringing legal nuance to the fore

The law cares about *how* you came to own something.

We already have this information.

We need to carefully bring it to the surface.
Bringing legal nuance to the fore

The law cares about *how* you came to own something.

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We need to carefully bring it to the surface.
A pedagogical resource
A pedagogical resource

Featuring dozens of examples from Linda Edwards’s standard textbook *Estates in Land and Future Interests.*
Orlando: A PL for property law

1. 0 owns P.
2. 0 conveys P to A for life, then to B.

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then
  While isAlive(A)
  Atom B
  
  Atom A
```
Orlando: A PL for property law

Littleton is a tool that connects Orlando back to the legal audience.

1. O owns P.
2. O conveys P to A for life, then to B.
Littleton is a tool that connects Orlando back to the legal audience.
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It has opened up the possibility of classroom deployment.
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Try it now: https://conveyanc.es/
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