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(ABA Law Practice Management 2014), paperback, 496 pages;
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Flying Solo is a compilation of articles by several contributors, including its Editor, Mr. Gibson. I believe that it lives up to its title as a survival guide. The contributors are lawyers or professionals with expertise in their topic. The writers addressed the issues a lawyer confronts, from first considering solo practice, through the essentials of transfer at the termination of the practice (Chapter 31 When I Die, Part II.) Mr. Gibson and his fellow authors discuss areas of the subject that I have never considered. To that extent, I found the perspectives discussed interesting. I believe Mr. Gibson’s intent was to give his reader a comprehensive overview of the subject. In my opinion, he accomplishes that goal.

Of particular interest is the guide to a lawyer leaving a firm to open his/her own practice. Having never done that, I learned what a traumatic event it is. Mr. Gibson and his fellow authors provide useful practical tips, although I think they go overboard with checklists.

Part I, “Pre Flight Manual”: I believe personal injury practice is so different from traditional practices that I am surprised that so little was devoted to it. I was intrigued by the subject of exiting a firm to open a solo practice. A comprehensive description of the issues facing the exiting lawyer included some that were surprising, such as how to deal with the personal treatment of soon-to-be-ex associates.

Part II, “Financial Manual”: This part is appropriate for the current financial realities. Gone are the days of renting a room, using your law school books for your “library”, leasing chairs and a desk, and waiting for clients to show.

Part III, “Operations Manual”: I have no doubt that this is a chapter that has significant practical value if one has never hired an assistant, been responsible for a budget, or managing the finances. If that is the case, this part gives the reader a leg up on the subject.

Part V, “Marketing Manual”: Sole practitioners who do not understand this subject are no longer in business, or at best struggling for survival. Like it or not, we are a fungible item and if we are going to grow our businesses, we must be committed to marketing.

I have saved what, in my judgment, is the part of the book that I can recommend without reservation, Part IV, “Technology Manual.” The authors provide resources and contact information. The resources give quick access to information we need on an almost daily basis. I am very thankful that I had the opportunity to review this information. I realized that I have approached research with tunnel vision.

Chapter 23, “Cloud Computer for lawyers”: My understanding of the cloud and its utility was broadened. I rely heavily on my IT firm. It is helpful to be able to converse with them concerning assets I am paying them to implement.

Chapter 24, “Free and Low-Cost Legal and Internet Research.” The Chapter contains resources that I have found very useful. I recommend reviewing the material and have even used a number of the resources described myself. If you need a reason to purchase this book, Part IV is it.
Mr. Gibson is a Portland personal injury lawyer. He received his JD in 1979 and maintains his practice there. He was honored by the ABA Law Practice Division in recognition for his lifetime contributions to the field of law practice management. Mr. Gibson also wrote *How to Build and Manage a Personal Injury Practice*. It is a credit to Mr. Gibson that he was able to present in one book information that will aid in the decision to open a solo business but also to make it work. Notwithstanding the fact Mr. Gibson is an experienced personal injury lawyer, I found little of direct interest or application, except for the discussion and application of research tools. His intent is to provide as broad a scope as possible to his subject, but it is therefore largely generic, which I found mildly disappointing. Several parts of the book have little or no application to the personal injury specialty; other parts are dated which is not unusual when it comes to the pace of technological advances. That is not to say that *Flying* is devoid of out-of-the-ordinary subject matter. The book deals with the issues and consequences one would never expect a lawyer confronts when leaving a firm. Several parts of the book contain exhaustive practical tips in the form of checklists. I believe that the lists may be slightly impractical, but are thought provoking.

Being a solo practitioner I was captivated by the title to this book. I was curious to see what I had been doing right or wrong. I enjoyed reading the book, but I would say overall that an experienced solo practitioner will find more to entertain than educate. However, this book would be an excellent resource for a third year law student or new lawyer.

William R. Levinson was born in Toronto Canada and later moved to the US. He graduated from the University of Washington and Willamette University College of Law. Mr. Levinson has practiced in Auburn and Kent Washington since 1971 and has been a solo practitioner since 1984. He has two claims to fame: he says he is the best looking bald lawyer in South King County, and he won the South King County Bar golf tournament numerous times. He prizes practicing law every day of his life. He is honored to be a member of WSAJ.