Ali, Chidir. *Yurisprudensi Hukum Perdata Islam di Indonesia*. Bandung: P.T. Alma‘arif, 1979, 437pp.

**ABSTRACT**

**Civil Law: Islamic Jurisprudence in Indonesia**

*Yurisprudensi Hukum Perdata Islam di Indonesia*

This work is a compilation of wide-ranging legal cases from Indonesian civil courts, with the purpose of providing reference points for legal discussions and decisions. The cases cover a twenty-year period from Indonesia’s early history as a state (1955 to 1979).

In the preface, Ali Chidir states that the purpose of the work is essentially pragmatic. He aims to facilitate access to Islamic legal thinking and rulings for diverse social groups: lawyers and judges in both general and Islamic legal contexts, government agencies, the higher education sector (both general and Islamic) and its students, Islamic religious scholars and the Islamic community at large.

The legal cases presented relate to marriage and divorce, inheritance, *hibah*, endowments (*wakaf*) and competence regarding religious judgement. The cases provide realistic insights into legal rulings in Indonesia during the period in focus. For example, the first case concerns a Muslim woman’s request to marry a Christian man in Jakarta, in which the presiding judge refuses the request in his judgement of 16 February 1955.

The cases presented provide a helpful window into the history of Indonesian jurisprudence in the early decades after independence from Dutch colonial rule. However, the contemporary relevance of these cases is marginal, given Indonesia’s dramatically changing social and religious context. An updated edition would address this, particularly if the new edition were to include both the original cases and cases from 1980 onwards.

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