

of her family home, and the birthplaces of her children — we learn none of them, and an astute eighteenth-century reader would have suspected that Mrs. Ferrars, in obscuring these place names, is hiding the stigma of riches derived from commerce. She cannot claim a heritage of traditionally derived wealth that certain place names would have revealed (267).

More intriguingly, Doody argues that part of Austen's artistry is that she also works against the conventional associations which names may convey. Fitzwilliam Darcy, for example, initially the quintessential Southern gentleman in *Pride and Prejudice*, ends the novel by establishing his family in the North (390). Thus readers may not rely completely on any neat one-to-one correspondence between a name and a historical allusion or cultural reference. Doody uses examples such as this one to support her contention that, based on early writings, Austen was less conventional than later published works might suggest.

Austen's most famous place name is arguably Pemberley, Darcy's country estate, and there has been much speculation as to whether the estate is based on a real home and, if so, which one. Doody offers some possibilities, but, more importantly, she examines the origins of the name itself: "'Pemberley' is an Anglo-Saxon locational description, 'place on the barley field near a hill.' 'Pember' would originally have referred to a man owning a barley field or fields" (299). She goes on to explain how appropriate it is for the most admired place in all of the novels to "return us to simplicity, to the primal work of loving Nature and raising food in it," by virtue of its name alone (300).

In her conclusion, Doody states of the body of Austen's work that "[h]istorical allusions abound in her fiction. . . . Combinations of place names and personal names point both back and forward. . . . The writing is dense with allusion, thick with multiple sensations and meanings" (389). Her meticulous research supports her thesis admirably, giving even the most ardent Austen fan new perspectives on her writing.

Bibliography

McDermid, Val. 2015. *Northanger Abbey*. New York: Grove.

Ursuline College, Emerita

JOANNE M. PODIS

How to Change Your Name in California. 14th edn. By LISA SEDANO and EMILY DOSKOW. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2014. Pp. 212. \$34.99. ISBN: 978-1-1-4133-1989-7.

Published by Nolo, a company known for making the law accessible to everyone, *How to Change Your Name in California* is an instructional manual for California residents seeking a formal legal name change. Unlike many other law books, this one is not written in "legalese." Attorneys Lisa Sedano and Emily Doskow use language that is accessible to any audience as they explain the legal process necessary to enable a name change.

The table of contents in this self-help book is clear and designed to make it easy to navigate between chapters according to specific needs. Included in the introduction are bolded category titles, each with a quick summary of a situation in which a name change might be desired. Each chapter is divided into subcategories and sub-subcategories, and parenthetical references throughout the book save time by directing readers to specific chapters in order to move past information irrelevant to their situation.

This book is thorough, but Sedano and Doskow recognize its limitations and warn the reader when their situation has moved beyond the scope of this book. *How to Change Your Name in California* is useful even for the reader whose situation cannot be covered adequately by it, however,

because a small section at the end of the book addresses what to do if you need a lawyer, what to ask of your lawyer, and what to expect from your lawyer.

A major strength of this book lies in the variety and number of scenarios it presents. Unlikely situations, like a name change after a sex-change operation, are given as much space as more common situations, like returning to a maiden name after divorce. The book also addresses collateral issues, pointing out, for example, that paternity is not proven with a last name (22). Specific examples provided throughout offer a mix of legal precedent and full-bodied hypothetical situations. Different icons indicate tips (pictured in Figure 1) and alert readers when they might want to skip ahead, when to be extra cautious (also pictured in Figure 1), and when to seek an expert.



FIGURE 1 Icon examples

The final section of the book, “Appearing in Court,” walks the reader through the in-court process of name changes. Tips peppered throughout this section contain recommendations on legal terms to use in court while also explaining those terms so that the reader can comfortably adopt them. This section also includes helpful dialogue that covers many potential court scenarios.

In the section about forms, the book explains any legal terms the reader needs to know in order to correctly fill out name-change forms. Copies of each form are included for reference right next to the instructions (rather than only at the back), which facilitates ease of use. Each box/item on the forms is explained fully and in more accessible language than is used on the actual form.

Once the court appearance is complete and forms have been filed, *How to Change Your Name in California* guides its reader through the final steps of the name-change process: whom to inform of your name change and what each agency/business will need in order to change your name on its records. While this book is comprehensive, the purchase of it also comes with access to a website that has downloadable forms, podcasts, and blog posts. The appendix yields examples of complete name-change forms, templates for letters informing agencies of a name change, and information on where to find a lawyer.

How to Change Your Name in California is worth the money mostly for individuals who are uncomfortable navigating websites independently. In fact, the California Judicial Branch in its homepage for the California Courts has a self-help website that covers name changes. The site is user-friendly and walks the user through each step necessary for a name change. What *How to Change Your Name in California* offers that the California Judicial Branch website does not are the robust examples of name-change situations, letter templates, and dialogue suggestions for those working with lawyers. Sedona and Duskow’s work serves as a current example of applied onomastics, wherein lies its greatest value to those familiar with names studies.