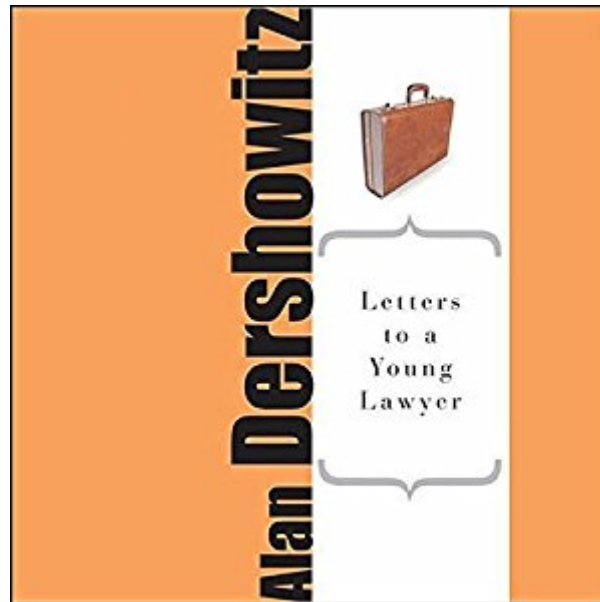




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Letters To A Young Lawyer



Synopsis

With wit, humor, and decades of personal experiences from which to draw, Alan Dershowitz dispenses advice on career, law, and life in a book aimed at those just starting out in the legal profession. As defender of both the righteous and the questionable, Alan Dershowitz has become perhaps the most famous and outspoken attorney in the land. Whether or not they agree with his legal tactics, most people would agree that he possesses a powerful and profound sense of justice. In this meditation on his profession, Dershowitz writes about life, law, and the opportunities that young lawyers have to do good and do well at the same time. We live in an age of growing dissatisfaction with law as a career, which ironically comes at a time of unprecedented wealth for many lawyers. Dershowitz addresses this paradox, as well as the uncomfortable reality of working hard for clients who are often without many redeeming qualities. He writes about the lure of money, fame, and power, as well as about the seduction of success. In the process, he conveys some of the "tricks of the trade" that have helped him win cases and become successful at the art and practice of "lawyering."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It really helps you out as student who wants to do good as a lawyer. You know by this book that you are not alone in being a good lawyer.

Professor Dershowitz's book is a series of short letters, each proffering a piece of advice to young lawyers. Although the introduction begins with a promise that Dershowitz will try "to be conscious of

avoiding the mistake of telling you how to become me," he inevitably falls into that trap and spends many pages lecturing the reader on the evils of particular political views and the corruption of particular high-profile enemies of his. Not a fan of the Bush v. Gore decision? You will find plenty of vitriol in this book to support that view -- sentences like: "The Supreme Court's decision in Bush v. Gore should be followed ... But it should not be respected, any more than the robed cheaters who wrote it should be respected." But on the positive side, the side with far less polarizing rhetoric, Dershowitz is at his best when explaining the moral and intellectual reasons for defending the accused. For instance, "If we move away from the American tradition of lawyers defending those with whom they vehemently disagree ... we weaken our commitment to the rule of law." Dershowitz explains well how the practicing defense attorney can defend a guilty person without any danger of ethical or moral compromise, and what's more, why the lawyer ought to do so. Each of the chapters focuses on one discrete element, and Dershowitz excels at inspiring his reader to think. A myriad of topics are covered, from self-doubt to absolute morality, from winning and losing to dealing with criticism. Whether you agree or disagree with his opinions, Dershowitz provides plenty of food for thought, and I could scarcely read three pages before shutting the book to ponder a new idea. This is a great book to start a young lawyer (or aspiring lawyer) thinking about the profession, but be warned that the language and the rhetoric get a bit heated in places.

An eye opener for those starting Law School (and those thinking of it). Recommended. A needed perspective beyond the unrealistic idea of the profession that most people tend to have.

This book is so insightful. As a young prosecuting attorney I found Dershowitz's ethical warnings very helpful in guiding my practice.

Alan Dershowitz takes in the reader and mentors the reader again, on every step of the way of law school, becoming a lawyer, life in law, and life politics. Very influential and inspiring to the mind on real life lessons and events to future potential lawyers or anyone that will be involved in the law and politics.

What I liked the most about this book is that it is written in plain, non sanctimonious language, with clear messages that can only be delivered by one who has so much experience in the field of jury persuasion and trial conducting. I find prof. Dershowitz's advice for a young criminal lawyer to be a lighthouse to follow, and a great source of real life practical, experience based, insights.

If ever there was a 'tell it as it is' book for the Legal Profession, this is it. Although it focuses on the American system, it does give good insight into the legal profession in a universal sense. I bought these as gifts to two young attorneys and have a copy myself.

Great copy

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