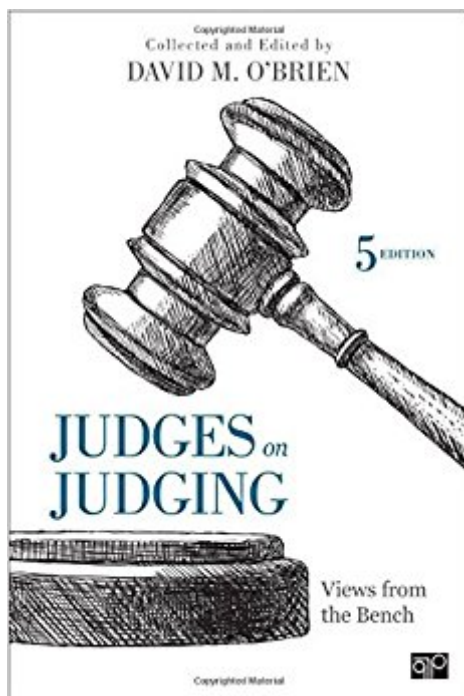


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Judges On Judging: Views From The Bench



Synopsis

Broad in scope, this one-of-a-kind book features "off-the-bench" writings and speeches in which Supreme Court justices, as well as lower federal and state court judges, discuss the judicial process, constitutional interpretation, judicial federalism, and the role of the judiciary. Engaging introductory material provides students with necessary thematic and historical context making this book the perfect supplement to present a nuanced view of the judiciary.

Book Information

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Most Americans don't understand what judges do. Yet they are ready to comment on the latest instance of any perceived example of judicial wrongdoing. O'Brien (government, Univ. of Virginia) believes that one way to improve the quality of our public discussion about the proper place of the judiciary is to read what judges have to say about their jobs and the judicial process. In a remarkable collection of writings by a wide range of judges—some well known, some more reclusive—opinions are expressed about a number of court-related topics: the dynamics of the judicial process, the relationship of judges to the Constitution, the nature of our constitutional system, and the place of judges in a litigious society. As only two examples, former Robert Bork writes of tradition and morality in the common law, and Richard Posner presents the case against strict constructionism. This book should appeal to both scholars and the informed reading public. Recommended for public and academic libraries. —Jerry E. Stephens, U.S. Court of Appeals Lib., Oklahoma City

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"Judges on Judging is consistently rated by my students as their favorite book in my class. No other single volume provides them with such a clear and accessible sense of what judges do, what courts do, and the way judges think about their roles and their courts." -- Douglas Edlin "Judges on Judging is a comprehensive collection of essays with significant insights into the views of leading justices and judges on the judicial process, the dynamics of judicial interpretation, deliberation and decision-making, and the role of courts. O'Brien's text offers students an extraordinary inside look at justices' and judges' thinking, their characters, judicial philosophies, and views of the judiciary in society. It is a practical and accessible resource for anyone interested in law and courts." -- Karen L. Owen "Of the books I use in the Judicial Process course, my students consistently rate Judges on Judging as their favorite and most interesting. The articles delve deeply into the Court's role in a constitutional republic and frequently lead to active student classroom debate. I've used O'Brien's text for over a decade, and my students consistently come away with knowledge of the judiciary and its role in the American political system that is more sophisticated and nuanced." -- John Hermann "I've been using O'Brien's edited collection in my upper-division course on the U.S. Supreme Court since its first edition. As a supplement to a variety of other, more scholarly and journalist readings, O'Brien's collection gives a compelling voice to the justices. Students welcome (and appreciate) the opportunity to directly explore the thinking and perspective of the nation's leading jurists on virtually all the topics covered in the course, and the collection provides a productive foil to contemporary scholarship." -- Mark P. Petracca

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