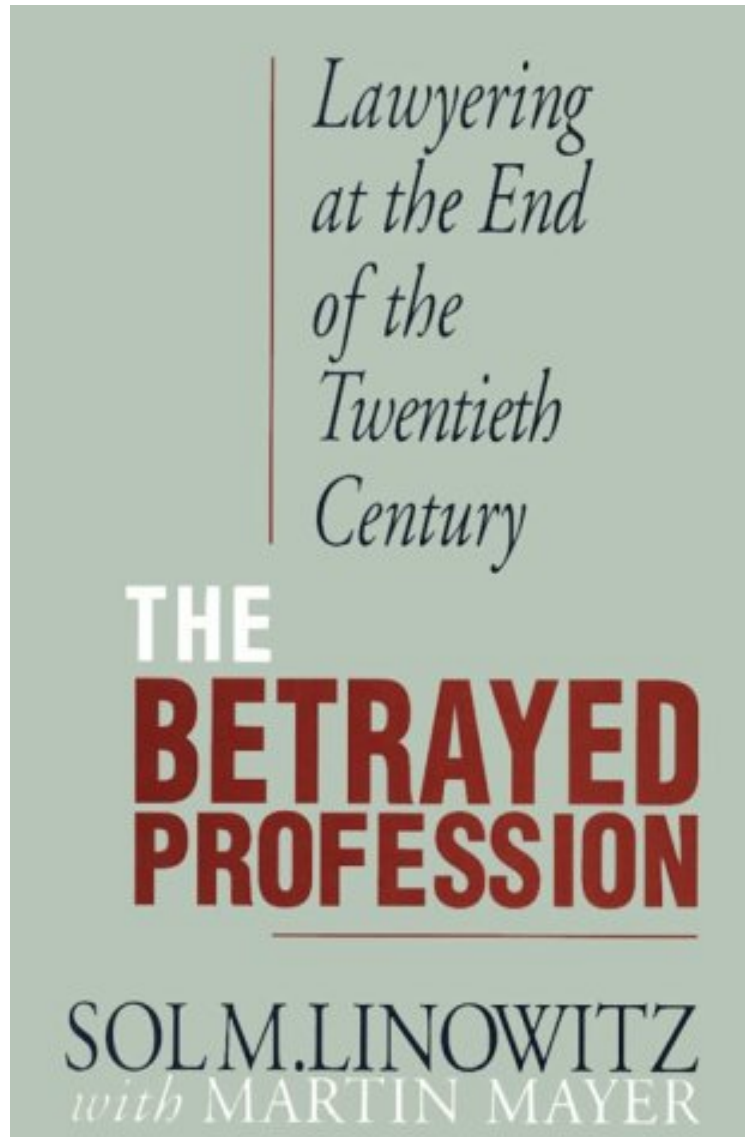


The Betrayed Profession: Lawyering at the End of the Twentieth Century

The Hon. Sol M. Linowitz

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The Hon. Sol M. Linowitz : The Betrayed Profession: Lawyering at the End of the Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Betrayed Profession: Lawyering at the End of the Twentieth Century:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. WEEPING BY THE WATERS OF ZION - FOR GOOD CAUSE By

Bulldog 1OCTOBER 2012 - I AM A GRADUATE OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY, THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, AND TOOK MY GRADUATE DEGREES IN AMERICAN CIVILIZATION AND IN AMERICAN STUDIES FROM NEW YORK UNIVERSITY AND YALE UNIVERSITY. I PRACTICED LAW IN NEW YORK CITY AND IN LOS ANGELES FOR SLIGHTLY OVER 35 YEARS, AND I AM STILL ACTIVE WITH "PRO BONO PUBLICO" WORK IN SUCH AREAS AS ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE AND MASS TORT LITIGATION. DURING MY YEARS IN PRACTICE - I AM NOW IN MY MID-70'S - MY SPECIALTIES WERE BANKING, FINANCE, LARGE-SCALE PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE, ENERGY FINANCE, AND LARGE-SCALE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PRIVATE EQUITY TRANSACTIONS.DURING THIS TIME I OBSERVED ... BY LIVING THROUGH IT, AND PARTICIPATING IN IT ...THE MUTATION OF THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN THE UNITED STATES FROM ONE WHICH STEADILY DEVOLVED ... PALPABLY AND VISIBLY, AND LIVED EACH DAY, BOTH IN THE OFFICE AND INTHE COURTS ... FROM ONE WHICH PLACED ITS EMPHASIS UPON THAT OF BEING A "COUNSELOR," TO ONE WHICH WAS, IN THE WORDS OF ONESENIOR AND HIGH-RANKING PARTNER IN ONE HIGHLY-RANKED NEW YORK CITY LAW FIRM, "FRANKLY ENTREPRENEURIAL." THE EMPHASIS SHIFTED FROM ONE WHICH WAS PREDOMINANTLY HUMANE, TO ONE WHICH WAS MORE ... AND ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ... FOCUSED UPON "THE BOTTOM LINE," AND "PROFITS PER PARTNER" (AS MEASURED AND REPORTED IN ALMOST PORNOGRAPHIC DETAIL AT REGULAR INTERVALS IN "THE AMERICAN LAWYER").THE CONCEPT OF LAW AS THAT OF A COLLEGIAL PROFESSION, AND ONE IN WHICH THE DEFECTION OF A PARTNER IN A FIRM TO ANOTHER ONEFOR GREATER COMPENSATION WAS AN ALMOST UNHEARD OF SCANDAL AS RECENTLY AS, SAY, THE YEARS OF THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION ... AND HOW THAT CONCEPT CAME, INCREMENTALLY, TO BE PROGRESSIVELY UNDERMINED IN ITS OWN UNDERPINNING OF A SENSE OF SHARED MORALITY, WAS WELL SET FORTH, BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF SOL LINOWITZ'S MOST WELCOME BOOK (CO-AUTHORED WITH MARTIN MEYER), IN THE NOVELS OF, ABOVE ALL, THE LATE LOUIS AUCHINCLOSS.AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ ... THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF XEROX CORPORATION, SPECIAL UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE CHIEF NEGOTIATOR OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY, AND FINALLY THE SPECIAL CHAIRMAN OF THE VENERABLE INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM OF COUDERT BROTHERS ... WITNESSED ALL OF THIS OVER THE SPAN OF HIS LIFETIME. AND HE WAS BOTH TROUBLED AND DISMAYED BY WHAT HE SAW TO BE A ONCE NOBLE PROFESSION PROGRESSIVELY DEGRADED BY ... THERE IS NO BETTER WORD ... GREED. HE WROTE THIS BOOK AS A PERSONAL WITNESS TO WHAT HE HAD SEEN ... AND AS A CAUTIONARY WARNING, THROUGH THE TELLING OF THE STORY, TO THE PROFESSION IN WHICH HE HAD SO ADMIRABLY PARTICIPATED. FITTINGLY ENOUGH, HE DEDICATED IT TO HIS FAMILY, AND ESPECIALLY TO HIS DAUGHTERS, WHO, HE SAID, KEPT TELLING HIM ... AND ONE MAY ONLY IMAGINE THE FAMILY SETTINGS IN WHICH SUCH COMMENTS ANDURGINGS WERE MADE TO HIM "AT THE END OF HIS DAILY AND TIRED DAY" ... THAT "DAD, YOU HAVE TO WRITE IT DOWN."A GREAT "READ," A GREAT SERVICE TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW, AND A GREAT SERVICE TO ANYONE WHO PICKS UP THIS BOOK, AND READS WHAT "SOL" WANTED TO TELL US HE HAD WITNESSED AT FIRST HAND.J. BAILEY HUDSON, JR., ESQ.CALIFORNIA STATE BAR NO: 091034FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lust for money and power corruptsBy RobinThoroughly enjoyed this book. It is a good expose' that depicts how Lawyers have betrayed a once noble profession that sought to temper justice with reason and mercy. How did they betray their profession? Simply put, it was their luster for money and power In America. That's why, as an old saying states, it's better to be rich and guilty than to be poor and innocent. Read, ponder and enjoy! Robin Lee, J.D.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Illuminating!By Dr. Siegfried E. TischlerOne other example for reality (truth - considering the author!)being far more riveting than fiction! The decay of american Law (and society, for that matter) is traced back to how a profession betrayed itself! The "Miranda" debacle of Bobby K. started the real breakdown. An entire virtual industry emerged from it and corroded the integrity of not only the legal profession, but dragged down with it also the medical one into a "profit-sharing" business! BRAVO! Mr. Mayer should team up with other disillusioned professionals to create similar eposes!

"A much needed antidote, with its perceptive comments on the decline of the legal profession."--Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the United States, 1969-1986This is the first searching examination of the troubled legal profession to be written by one of the nation's leading lawyers, and in it Sol Linowitz offers guidelines to a renewed professionalism among attorneys. The Betrayed Profession criticizes not the mouthpieces and the ambulance chasers that are the usual targets of public criticism, but the leaders of the bar--the New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, D.C., firms that have created a "legal services industry" and turned a public calling into an increasingly narrowed business. Linowitz shows that many lawyers have lost their connection to the tradition that theirs is a public profession--that the

lawyer's responsibility is not simply to the client, or to the highest fee obtainable, but to the court. Today, the bar association has become a trade union for lawyers, and the public is the loser. This book is an urgent call to action that neither the legal profession nor the public it is meant to serve can afford to ignore.

From Library Journal
Linowitz, senior partner of Coudert Brothers and former general counsel and chairman of the board of Xerox, writes on the sea change that has occurred in law practice over the past 50 years. He tells how and why lawyers have stopped being true counselors and have started being big businessmen. He laments at length the lack of ethics in the profession today and details what law schools, firms, bar associations, and judges should do to ameliorate these problems. It is not clear whether those addressed by Linowitz feel motivated to make the changes he suggests; in a sense, his voice is a cry in the wilderness. For legal ethics collections only.
Elizabeth Fielder Olson, Archer Greiner, Haddonfield, N.J. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Kirkus
Overlong and overly impressionistic breast-beating from one of the elder statesmen of the American bar with help from Mayer (The Greatest Ever Bank Robbery, 1990). How profound can reader response be to a book that concludes: "The fault is not in our stars but in ourselves"?
Linowitz, former US ambassador and currently senior partner of a noted "white shoe" law firm, gave a lawyer-thumping speech at Cornell Law School's centenary celebration. Apparently aided and abetted by several Supreme Court justices who sent admiring notes about the speech, he has here elongated it into a book-length treatment about the decline of standards in the legal profession. His major complaint is that too many lawyers, faced with increased competition and the drive for personal profit, have abdicated their independence--i.e., they are "afraid to say no" to clients. This might make a hard-hitting op-ed piece despite the confusing title ("betrayed" by whom?), but the argument peters out when blown up to over 200 pages, largely on the strength of material that seems more anecdotal than evidentiary. The book has its stranger moments, as when Linowitz lionizes old-line titans like Paul Cravath for their courage to defy their clients while admitting that the doors of the law firms run by Cravath and his peers were shut to Linowitz as a young lawyer because of his ethnic origins. Too often Linowitz's valid reflections (e.g., on the unhealthy change from a long-term lawyer/client relationship to one-shot transaction work) nestle uncomfortably next to pointless or confusing stories ("An ever-increasing number of people no longer admire doctors"). Linowitz's "solutions"--greater independence, more pro bono work--are worthy but not exactly cutting-edge stuff. While aware of the temptation to glorify the "good old days," Linowitz is not too successful in avoiding that trap: he complains of the "forced retirement of senior partners who had the wisdom and leisure to serve as mentors." "A real ho-hum." -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "Linowitz is a man of vast experience in the world of law, and his insights are applicable to any area of practice... The Betrayed Profession bravely challenges lawyers to regain the public's respect by engaging in good works in their professional and personal lives. Linowitz's challenge should be heard loud and clear by all lawyers." -- Robert C. Strodel, Trial
"Sol Linowitz has been an ambassador, a negotiator for the United States on the Panama Canal Treaty and Middle East peace and partner in a top Washington law firm. In this insightful volume he surveys his profession and its many problems from the perspective of a man who knows that profession inside out." -- Washington Times
"The Betrayed Profession carries the heft of authority... The book's many examples should squelch any doubt that many big firms in particular, and the profession in general, are riddled by greed, hypocrisy, and significant wrongdoing." -- New York Times
"Valuable and complex... It's time for some introspection, and Linowitz's book is a good start." -- Washington Post