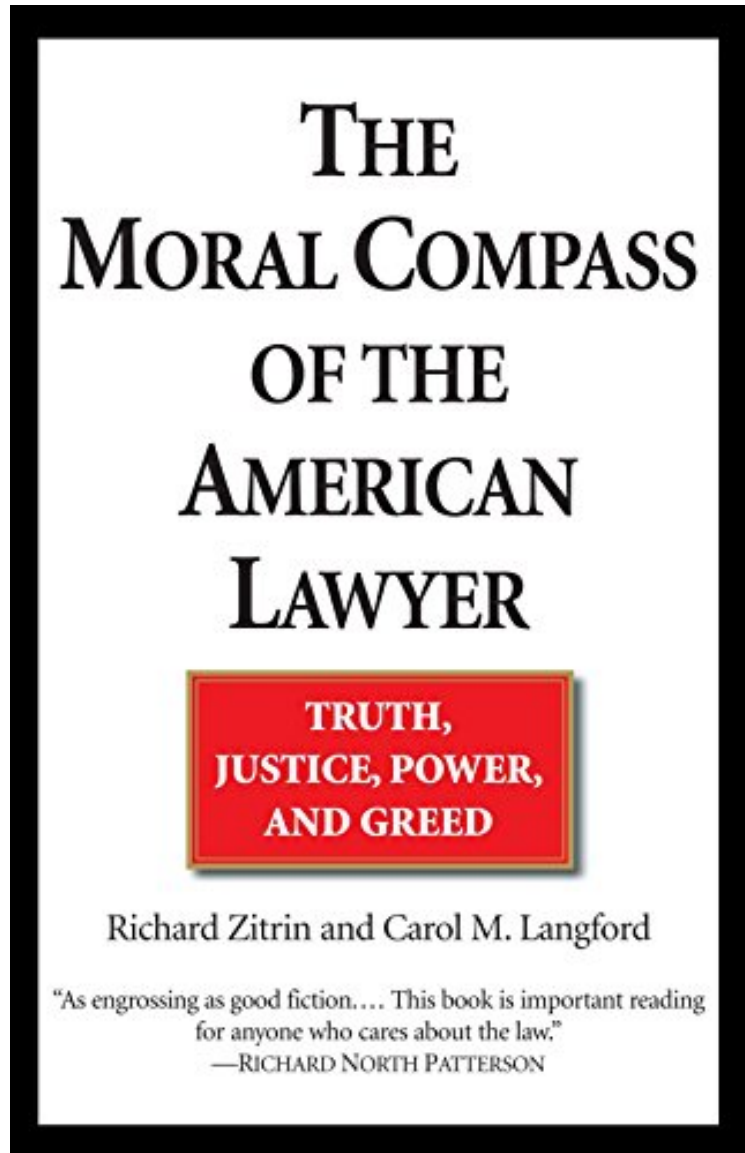


The Moral Compass of the American Lawyer: Truth, Justice, Power, and Greed

Richard A. Zitrin, Carol M. Langford
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Richard A. Zitrin, Carol M. Langford : The Moral Compass of the American Lawyer: Truth, Justice, Power, and Greed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Moral Compass of the American Lawyer: Truth, Justice, Power, and Greed:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I have multiple copies! It's must reading for every American. By Mary Anne Enriquez I agree with all of what is said in the positive ratings here. I have bought 3 copies....! The first was a used copy from the local library used bookstore. It got so dog earned...I bought a hard cover here, and another soft cover to give to a friend with legal problems. It's a riveting book, I could not put down. I have constantly referred to this book, and discussed it on many occasions. It's extremely eye opening, yet sickens me how the industry of Lawyers has become....a game of who wins...and who makes the most money. Honestly, it makes me ashamed of the American legal system at times. It's really HARD not to stereotype all lawyers after reading this. There are good ones...but I was especially chilled to read how law schools train students....and morality is quite lacking. It's truly a wonder that lawyers with heart, sanity, and lack of greed do exist. I think this book should be required reading for every student....regardless of future vocation. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Really great book. I had to read it for class ...By Emily Sue Really great book. I had to read it for class so thought it might be a little stiff but I actually ended up really enjoying it. There are a lot of great cases discussed to illustrate points the authors are trying to make and it really gave me a lot to think about. Highly recommend. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Strongly recommended for all medical students. By Chiam Yaw Yung This book is interesting, it is like psychiatry for medical students. I urge the author to expand his work into other contemporary issues. For example, puncturing the legalese bluff used by lawyers to deceive lay people. We all engage the service of lawyers such as in mortgage loans, bank loans etc. but most of us have no idea what a contract really means. The Lehman Brothers Minibond has caused so much suffering to bond holders especially the pensioners. One of the complaints was, nobody really understands those pages of legalese bluffs drafted by lawyers. Another interesting fact is the service of process etc. I would like to see this book expanded with more contemporary issues.

These are perilous times for Americans who need access to the legal system. Too many lawyers blatantly abuse power and trust, engage in reckless ethical misconduct, grossly unjust billing practices, and dishonesty disguised as client protection. All this has undermined the credibility of lawyers and the authority of the legal system. In the court of public opinion, many lawyers these days are guiltier than the criminals or giant corporations they defend. Is the public right? In this eye-opening, incisive book, Richard Zitrin and Carol Langford, two practicing lawyers and distinguished law professors, shine a penetrating light on the question everyone is asking: Why do lawyers behave the way they do? All across the country, lawyers view certain behavior as "ethical" while average citizens judge that same conduct "immoral." Now, with expert analysis of actual cases ranging from murder to class action suits, Zitrin and Langford investigate lawyers' behavior and its impact on our legal system. The result is a stunningly clear-eyed exploration of law as it is practiced in America today--and a cogent, groundbreaking program for legal reform.

.com We have all heard the derogatory jokes comparing lawyers to slimy, venomous invertebrates. And we have laughed. On the scale of public contempt, the legal profession ranks somewhere between tabloid journalists and telemarketers. What should be a good and honorable vocation is collectively vilified as devious and mercenary. In *The Moral Compass of the American Lawyer*, Richard Zitrin and Carol M. Langford try to explain legal ethics to nonlawyers. While they provide a vigorous defense of the American system of justice, they also note the ethical catastrophes caused by the excesses of the adversarial process. Lawyers are not paid to defend "Truth, Justice, and the American Way," the authors note; they are paid to defend their clients, and the duty of zealous advocacy sometimes pushes lawyers to work at the margins of decency. Some lawyers straddle the ethical line, or skip back and forth with impunity; others dive headlong over the edge and never return. Clients want to hire successful lawyers, of course, and the lawyers who are successful are too often the ones who are willing to ignore the boundaries of professional responsibility. The ethics of the profession seem to be defined by whatever the slickest can get away with. Nice lawyers finish last in this race to the bottom, and the victors gladly suffer the slings and arrows of popular opinion as they amass outrageous billable hours. *The Moral Compass of the American Lawyer* is a sweeping overview of the ethical dilemmas that face every member of the legal profession every day--whether they are a criminal defense lawyer, personal injury attorney, corporate in-house counsel, or junior associate at a 500-lawyer megafirm. The authors also provide a frank assessment of the shortcomings of the entire U.S. judicial system, from the law schools to the courtrooms, and what can be done to remedy the situation. --Tim Hogan From Publishers Weekly As a starting place for a broad-reaching contemplation of the moral challenges that face a much-maligned profession, Zitrin and Langford's book is as good as any. The authors ask whether it is possible for a lawyer to remain a decent human being while practicing law in the current system. Their conclusion is less than sanguine. Each chapter addresses a different type of ethical dilemma that lawyers regularly face in their practice. The earlier chapters deal with the types of scenarios that underlie the general public's distrust of lawyers: criminal trial attorneys who protect or become complicit with defendants; corporate attorneys who do the same for their wealthy clients. The book then moves on to more "lawyerly" concerns, such as the difficulties of representing a "class" in a class action and the use of attorney/client privilege by in-house corporate counsel. The authors, both practitioners and teachers, conclude with a chapter on their view of the changes necessary to protect the ethical future of the legal profession. General readers will

likely savor the real-life accounts of unethical and sometimes criminally liable attorneys, while attorneys themselves may have little incentive to finish a book that implies that common human decency and morality are most often left at the door in the practice of law. If there's a fundamental flaw to the book, it's the emphasis on extreme examples of bad behavior rather than on the moral tightropes that even the most ethical lawyers walk every day. Major ad/ promo. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In this book about morality and American lawyering, Zitrin and Langford, practicing California lawyers and law professors, raise key questions about the behavior of many in their profession. They find a weak ethical foundation to the practice of law in this country owing to serious conflicts between legal representation and moral outcomes. The structure of the legal profession, especially in large firms, and lawyers behavior based upon zealous advocacy and a strong advocacy theorem in which the lawyer does not adopt the views of the client but merely defends them lead to major ethical dilemmas in both civil and criminal cases. The authors argue that lawyers should recognize the moral costs of their actions and redraw the balance between lawyers obligations to clients and to society. Zitrin and Langford offer general prescriptions for reform of the legal system and its institutions to increase societal responsibility among lawyers. This book will interest and inform adult audiences about ethical and professional conflicts in the law. Steven Puro, St. Louis Univ. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.