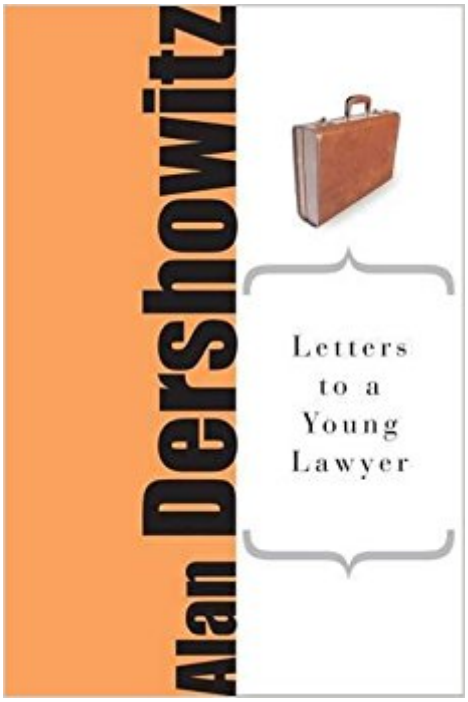
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Letters To A Young Lawyer (Art Of Mentoring (Paperback))



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Synopsis

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

Dershowitz helps inaugurate a new series called the Art of Mentoring with this volume of advice and reflection on practicing law. Several unifying themes run throughout, most prominently the ethical traps for defense attorneys, prosecutors and even judges inherent in the practice of criminal law. Dershowitz alerts a fledgling lawyer to the systemic bias, corner-cutting and outright cheating that he sees permeating the criminal courts. While Dershowitz recognizes the ethical ambiguity that suffuses much of the law, he is more concerned with communicating the moral absolutes he

believes in. These include the uncompromising obligation of a defense lawyer to work for the accused’s acquittal by all legitimate means. A believer in telling the truth, Dershowitz excoriates deceitful lawyers and hypocritical judges alike. Along with the moral imperatives, the author tells some war stories and settles a few scores, for example, with critics who took him to task for defending O.J. Simpson, and with the Supreme Court, whose decision in the 2000 election case Dershowitz finds dishonest and unprincipled. The young lawyer (to whom these mini-essays are addressed) will perceive how ethically messy and complicated the law can be and how many core issues in our national life the law touches. Even more, the reader will come away with a sense of Dershowitz himself as teacher, tenacious advocate and self-described provocateur. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Rilke is hot this year--as an advice-giver. His Letters to a Young Poet is the point of reference for Dershowitz’s "oral letters," part of a new series called the Art of Mentoring, and for Christopher Hitchens’ commentary on contrarianism (see p.271). Having written more than a dozen previous books, Dershowitz is a known quantity; readers tend to be either fans or foes. Those who like him will find plenty of commonsense suggestions here, on heroes and enemies and on morality and wealth. The "young lawyer" of the title is the book’s most obvious target reader, but Dershowitz’s commentary on his profession will also appeal to those who work with lawyers and even to readers who love legal thrillers. And because attorneys simply face different versions of the challenges most white-collar workers face, much of Dershowitz’s advice can be applied in other workplaces as well. Likely to circulate where Dershowitz’s other books are popular. Mary CarrollCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 is written in plain, non sanctimoniouslanguage, with clear messages that can only be delivered by one who has so much experiencein the field of jury persuasion and trial conducting.I find prof. Dershowitzs' advises for a young criminal lawyer to be a lighthouseto 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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