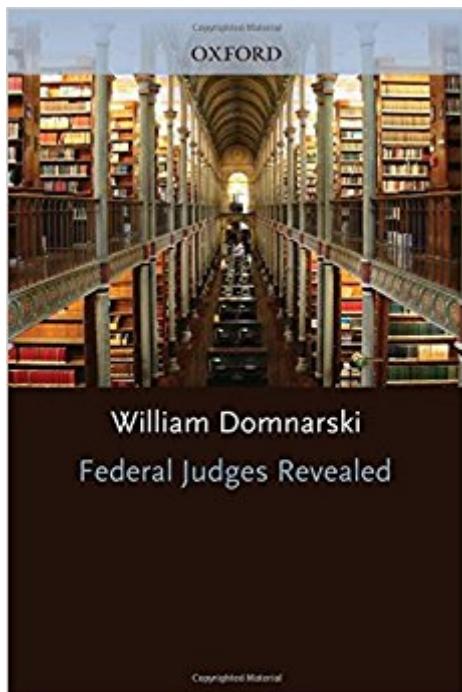


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# Federal Judges Revealed



## **Synopsis**

The power and influence of the federal judiciary has been widely discussed and understood. And while there have been a fair number of institutional studies-studies of individual district courts or courts of appeal--there have been very few studies of the judiciary that emphasize the judges themselves. Federal Judges Revealed considers approximately one hundred oral histories of Article Three judges, extracting the most important information, and organizing it around a series of presented topics such as "How judges write their opinions" and "What judges believe make a good lawyer."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Of all government officials, federal judges are the most private and shielded from public view. Yet, these holders of life-time appointments wield tremendous power to shape our lives. There are many studies of federal judges from a variety of perspectives, but this one is somewhat unique. The author, a practicing attorney in Riverside, California, has drawn his material from over 100 oral histories given in interviews with various local court historical groups. Such oral histories were encouraged at least as early as the bicentennial by national judicial officials, along with circuit and district court histories, as a commemorative device. The author's reliance on these oral histories means that the judges speak for themselves literally, and the interviews cover across the country. However, it must be noted that most of the interviewees were at senior or retirement status, so we are hearing from judges who were shaped by the 1950's through the 1980's or so. Moreover, these interviews were not a random sample (in the statistical sense), with the 9th and 7th Circuits most

heavily represented. There are also a number of District of Columbia federal judges quoted as well, and I found this particularly interesting since I had appeared before several of them. And no Supreme Court Justices are included. Nonetheless, recognizing these limitations, the book is extremely informative and insightful. The author follows the general pattern of the interviews themselves. That is, he begins with the judges' early life, their education, clerkships, and legal practices. I found the chapter on judicial appointments extremely interesting because it well explores the nitty-gritty of how these judges (out of all the zillions of lawyers) managed to grab the golden ring of appointment.

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