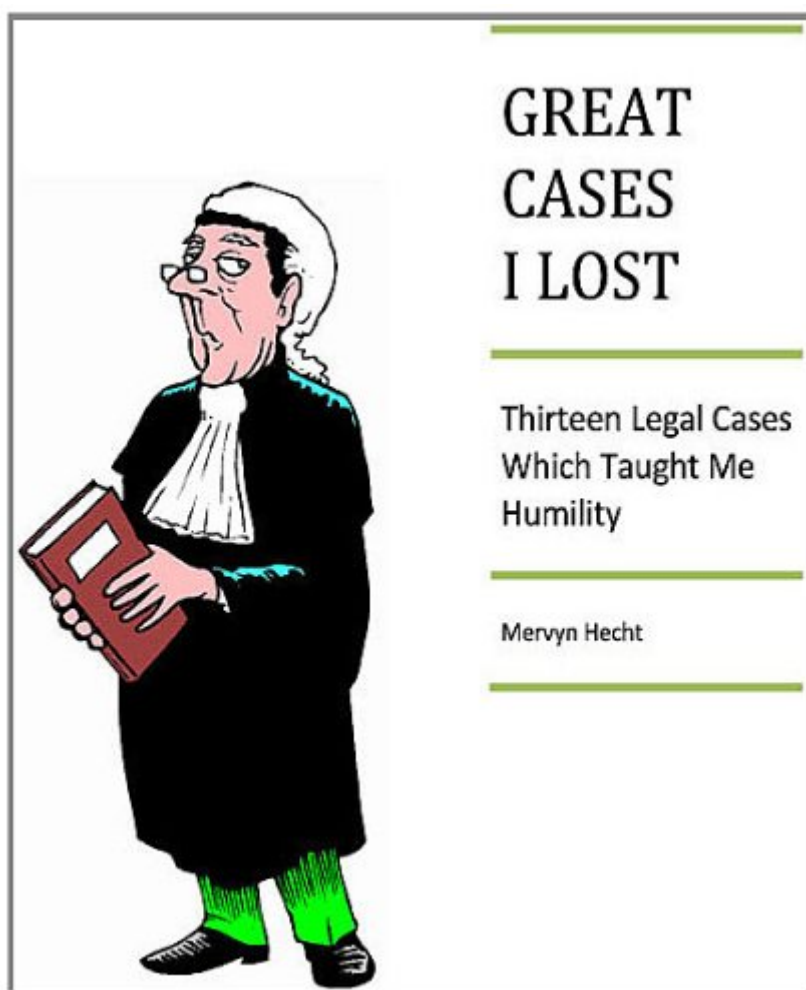


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GREAT CASES I LOST: THIRTEEN LEGAL CASES WHICH TAUGHT ME HUMILITY



Synopsis

This is a sometimes humorous, sometimes heartaching account of cases Merv Hecht, a lawyer in Pacific Palisades, California remembers from his 40 years of law practice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Merv,I finally finished reading your book "great cases I lost". It did take very long, not because it was boring but because I usually read in the metro or in my bed, and your book could only be read on my computer, which is too cumbersome to be used in either case.I enjoyed it very much.I enjoyed being able to follow the legal arcanees in the - very clearly written - thinking process of a lawyer, in particular in "Chicken and other animals" and "The Heller's matter" (already a Mr. Maddox involved in a scam).I liked the humour and I was charmed by your stories. They reminded me of old police series like James Hadley Chase's, and made me nostalgic of the USA I knew when I was a student in LA, when most of the people were polite and nice like in the songs of Simon and Garfunkel.I loved the way you describe the characters involved: uncle Iser and aunt Shirley, Craig Medoff, Don Saltzman, Roger Diamond (we have met by writing in the IPM times), Cheryl (I met her personally and had her many times on the phone), Leo, Bob. I regretted that you mentioned Bonnie, but never

wrote about her. I loved it also because the stories are also about your life, the way you make money, the variety of your domains of interest, the way you look at people, the way you make friends and keep them for a long time, the importance of your family. Finally, I just want to say that your book is not so much about cases that you lost (in fact only 3/13) which is again somewhat misleading (c.f. "The instant wine connoisseur") than about great lessons that you learned. Michel

Merv, This is a great read. I purchased it for my husband who read it in 2 enjoyable sittings. These cases and their stories, as you say teach humility, they also reaffirm our belief that sometimes the battle is one by the decision not to fight. And when you do take your case before a judge or jury, winning requires knowledge of the law and the evidence, and a keen understanding of who your audience is. These cases have valuable lessons for business operators, real estate owners, and intellectual property owners. Being without legal training, we can both say that you need not be an attorney or a law student to appreciate this book. And if you do go to court, you want a lawyer like Mervyn Hecht. Keep writing !

"Great Cases I Lost" was a very enjoyable read with all fourteen cases being different in their legal characteristics and demonstrate a wide range of law practice. Each case evoked it's own emotional response. The carnival episode went suddenly from light-hearted to tragic. The San Jose case made me angry about anti-semitism. The pettiness of people was demonstrated in the dog story. I thought the George Rosenberg verdict was unjust and Wyler should have been assessed some liability. The cleverness of the lawyer in the pornography case was amusing. The murder case was like a real "who done it". The Invisible Killer case shows how convoluted law suits can become. The theme throughout the book was to me that after all it was incumbent for a lawyer to be adequately compensated for his efforts, and the more prepared a lawyer is, the harder he works, and the more he has of the "clever factor" will result in satisfactory fee compensation.

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