



III Reviews / Recensions

Edited by Elizabeth Bruton and Dominique Garingan

[25 Rules for Success... and 10 Tips to Help You Enjoy the Practice of Law](#). By Jacqueline L King. Toronto: Thomson Reuters, 2020. 137p. Includes appendices of supplemental resources. ISBN 978-0-7798-9714-8 (softcover) \$54.00.

Jacqueline L King, a partner at Shibley Righton LLP, is the author of *25 Rules for Success... and 10 Tips to Help you Enjoy the Practice of Law*. She is a respected litigation lawyer, a sought-after continuing legal education speaker, an astute collaborator in any committees she sits on, and oh yeah, a mother who also gets involved in her children's lives. In this book, the author explains how she stays on top of commitments while giving her best in all that she sets her mind to. Called to the bar in 1994, she has gained a wealth of knowledge, insight, and experience to write this practical book for lawyers.

As the Honourable Ian Binnie writes in the *Forward*, this book applies to both early and mid-career legal practitioners who seek to improve their practice of law by way of alleviating stress and anxiety. Along with building a network of clients, colleagues, and opportunities, the implementation of automatic and predictable work habits centred around order and structure is also vital. However, and more importantly, the author also reminds readers how important self-care is in order to regroup and refresh before continuing with the task at hand. The author advises readers to accept that mistakes do happen, to remember to self-correct if at fault, and to be kind when the fault lies with others. The author also advises readers to take vacations, to hit the reset button, and to have fun both in and outside of work above all.

As the title indicates, the book has 25 rules for success and 10 tips to help lawyers enjoy the practice of law. At the end of the book, readers will find an appendix of *Additional Resources on Rules* that includes web links and other materials reproduced with permission. Peppered throughout the book are memorable anecdotes such as the author's tale of being hired for a big case only because the originally retained lawyer was caught reviewing emails while in a conference with his client. This is in the book as Rule No. 20: Don't check your phone when a client (or anyone else) is speaking to you. The author also includes historical quotes from notable persons. One by Warren Buffet may be found in Rule No. 22: "It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you will do things differently."

A search online finds similar career-oriented books aimed at members of the legal profession. For the most part, a number of these books deal with getting accepted into law school, starting a career, developing soft skills, and maintaining a balanced life while engaging in professional practice. For example, LexisNexis has a publication entitled *25 Tips for the New Lawyer* which is less nuanced in comparison with the highlights and references to additional resources found in this book.

25 Rules for Success is uniquely positioned as an easily referenced pocket style paperback publication with an easy-to-read style. The tips directed at lawyers as they plot their way through the legal profession may also apply to other occupations. I can see myself as the reader applying the author's tried and true tips and tricks to my own work and personal life to achieve a more meaningful life balance.

Who can argue with giving our best? This includes giving ourselves permission to pay attention to the care we need to put our full attention into the task at hand.

REVIEWED BY

VICKI LEUNG

Reference Librarian

University of Windsor Law Library

***By the Court: Anonymous Judgments at the Supreme Court of Canada.* By Peter McCormick and Marc D Zanoni. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2019. xv, 252p. Includes bibliographic references and index. ISBN 9780774861717 (hardcover) \$89.95. ISBN 9780774861724 (softcover) \$32.95. ISBN 9780774861748 (EPUB) \$32.95. ISBN 9780774861731 (PDF) \$32.95.**

As I was reading this publication, I came across this interesting footnote: "... this book came into being only because a graduate student's thesis project wound up disproving most of what his supervisor thought he knew about the subject" (footnote 25, p 232).

Marc D Zanoni, with Peter McCormack as his thesis supervisor, was working on a Master of Arts degree in political science at the University of Lethbridge. Zanoni's thesis topic involved "an examination of the Supreme Court of Canada's *By the Court* decisions—those decisions that are not attributed to any specific individual but mysteriously and cryptically *to the Court*" (p xi). During his literature review, Zanoni was surprised to discover that there was no academic literature on the topic! There were no books, no articles, and no "focused discussion" of the phenomenon. After various twists, turns, and discoveries in the research process, Zanoni and McCormick ended up writing this book, a well-researched exploration of *By the Court* decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC).

The authors conducted a remarkably thorough study of the *Supreme Court Reports* and turned to the Court's archives to gain a deeper understanding of the decision-making and reporting process in the early years of the Court. Zanoni and McCormack begin their investigation with the most basic question, "What are *By the Court* decisions?" They then set out the assertions they plan to defend and demonstrate in the coming chapters as they "examine when and how the Supreme Court presents its reasons anonymously in cases that really matter" (p 10).

The second chapter of the book provides an informative and succinct history of the Supreme Court of Canada based on the authors' assertion that the Supreme Court has been, for the past 50 years, primarily a constitutional court. In Chapters 3-5 we find a discussion of the importance of presentation and packaging of Supreme Court decisions. The authors explore the *By the Court* phenomenon and whether this is primarily a Canadian experience or if the decisions share the tradition with the British House of Lords, the United States Supreme Court, or perhaps have a French connection. A comparison of comparable common law courts defends the authors' assertion that the Supreme Court's use of *By the Court* is, in fact, unique.

In Chapter 6, the authors trace the early history of *By the Court* decisions through eight decades and three distinct phases, referring to this period as the "minor tradition." Chapter 7 highlights the decisions that marked the transformation of the "minor tradition" into the modern practice the authors have labelled the "grand tradition." Chapter 8 provides a more complete list of *By the Court* decisions in the grand tradition, organized by Chief Justice. Chapters 9 and 10 explore four categories of judgments that are given *By the Court* designations and the reasons underlying each. Reference decisions are explained very well here, and I enjoyed the explanation behind the court's use of *By the Court* judgments in response to problematic and controversial "hot potato" cases. In the final chapter, the authors organize their study's conclusions with a look to the future of the *By the Court* format.

To better illustrate the discussions, the authors provide 19 detailed tables and figures along with detailed footnotes, which provide a good jumping-off point for readers to explore other valuable sources. I enjoyed the many interesting tidbits I learned throughout the book, such as the fact that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the High Court of Chivalry. As well, this book contains interesting anecdotes about why the Supreme Court of Canada had to delay issuing certain judgments. Furthermore, readers may be surprised to know that on December 15, 1988, four *By the Court* decisions were issued in one day!

This is an appealing book, and I recommend it to members of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL/ACBD). Anyone with an interest in the history of the Supreme Court of Canada, their judgments, and the judgment writing process will enjoy this book.

REVIEWED BY

ANN MARIE MELVIE

Law Librarian

Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan

***Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Tort Opinions.* Edited by Martha Chamallas and Lucinda M Finley. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. xxiv, 427 p. Includes bibliographic references, table of contents, table of cases, and index. ISBN 978-1-108-706247 (paperback) \$56.95.**

Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Tort Opinions is the latest installment of the *Feminist Judgments* series published by Cambridge University Press. This book is edited by Martha Chamallas, the Robert J Lynn Chair in Law at the Ohio State University, and Lucinda M Finley, the Frank G Raichle Professor of Trial and Appellate Advocacy and Director of Moot Courts at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York. It features a number of legal academics as contributing authors, analysts, and feminist judgment writers. This book specifically addresses tort decisions, and it should be noted that the content of the book features solely American tort cases. The introduction emphasizes that the book is meant to be used in law schools, and one assumes that it is American law school students who are the target audience.