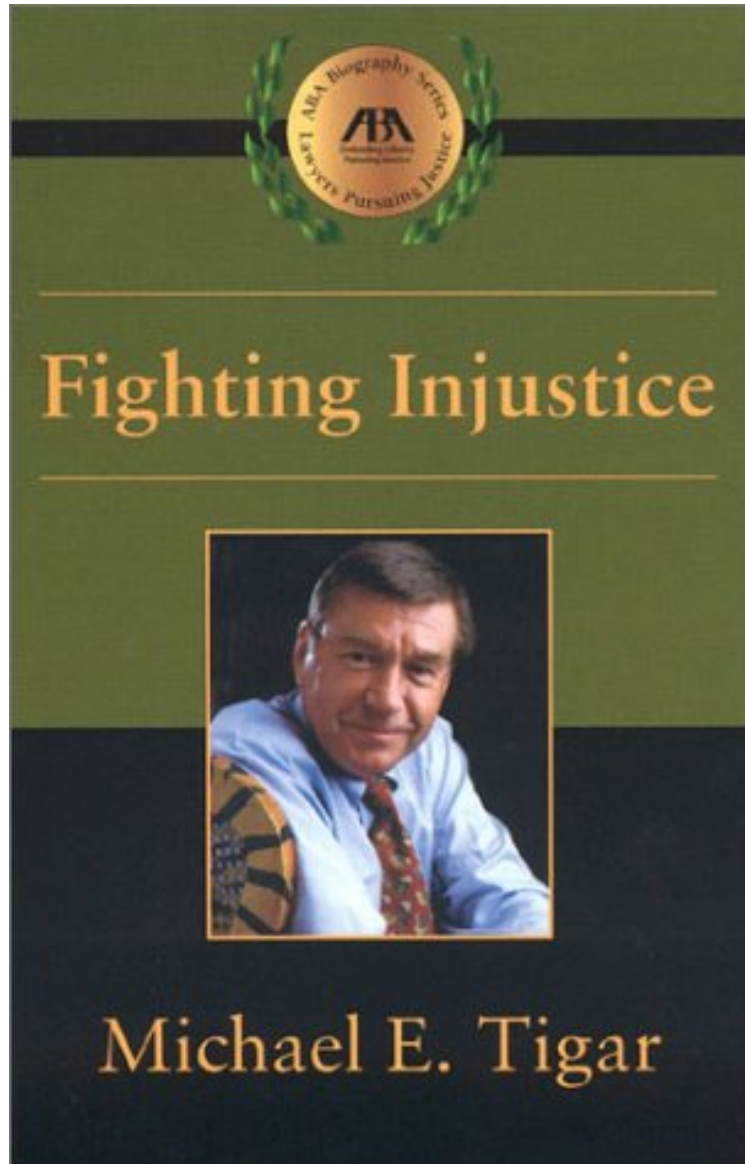


(Download) Fighting Injustice

## Fighting Injustice

*Michael E. Tigar*

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#2867673 in Books American Bar Association 2003-06-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.44 x .88 x 6.18l, 1.40 #File Name: 1590310152346 pages | File size: 77.Mb

**Michael E. Tigar : Fighting Injustice** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fighting Injustice:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Winning ArgumentBy Timothy HallinanMichael Tigar was one of the 20th century's most successful and influential attorneys, a man who devoted his enormous energy and intelligence to cases that affected the underdogs in the fields of civil rights, citizen's rights, and individual freedoms. Wherever the flashpoints of the late 1960s through the 1980s and even 90s were, Tigar was there, making eloquent and often

ingenious arguments on behalf of many who otherwise would have been steamrolled by the sheer weight and inertial energy of the state. He's especially fine in recalling his cases; the section on opposing the draft during the Vietnam War (including one defendant who was the son of Cesar Chavez) relays several cases in relatively short order and is a model of legal story-telling. Tigar was also involved in the South African ordeal of Nelson Mandela and survived the courtroom of Judge Julius Hoffman and was named, appropriately, I think, the third-most influential defense attorney of the 20th century, behind Clarence Darrow and Thurgood Marshall. As a non-lawyer, I found a few sections of the book in which he lays out relevant case law to be heavy wading at times, but other than that, this is a riveting story, and occasionally very funny -- and some of the trial sequences are nonpareil.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. My view of the Tigar fight

By kristopher

In my first year of law school, the vocal Michael Tigar had a reputation around campus for being strategically dramatic and professionally pragmatic. In *Fighting Injustice*, however, the paper Tigar mixes history and amusement with quite personal anecdotes to gain the confidence, interest and compassion of his readers. The book is structured chronologically from his life as a child growing up in California through the recent past just before 9/11. He uses his own cases to exemplify the quest for justice in such areas as sexual/gender discrimination, military justice proceedings, draft board cases, death penalty and even the carefully orchestrated pomp of debates hosted by William F. Buckley, Jr.

*Fighting Injustice* is the third book Tigar has authored for the American Bar Association, for which he served in various chair positions of the Litigation Section in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The book includes two important themes that have shaped Tigar's sense of justice and have gotten him into interesting and sometimes entertaining circumstances. One important theme is the light and dark aspects of affiliating with justice-seeking groups. Tigar begins the book with a discussion about his early childhood. His father worked at various jobs that were available to an ex-military man with minimal education until he ultimately joined a workers' union in California. His father's connection with the union resulted in young Michael's receiving autographed pictures of Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, who were his movie heroes at the time. On one occasion, Roy Rogers came over to a table where young Michael and his father were seated to discuss hunting. Later in life, Tigar would experience a darker side of fraternizing with justice seeking groups. Throughout college, young Tigar worked tirelessly in student body government at the University of California at Berkeley to support such causes as the free speech movement in the waning days of McCarthyism, abolishment of capital punishment and racial equality. His efforts included sit-ins, picketing and boycotts of stores that refused service to African-Americans. Later in law school, Tigar successfully led a campaign to remove the loyalty oath from the California bar student application. He argued that the oath unconstitutionally restricted freedom of speech by preventing bar members to "advocate the violent overthrow of the government." These activities later created political difficulties and pressures from the FBI and other governmental agencies when Tigar later sought employment as a law clerk to Justice Brennan of the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Brennan initially promised Tigar the position, but later reneged without any explanation. These and similar experiences recounted in *Fighting Injustice* suggest that Tigar's personal experiences with controversy motivated an understanding that justice seeking groups are made up of loved ones and heroes; whereas, those who execute the law can damage a person in ways that may have no practical defense or remedy.

Another important theme of Tigar's theory of justice is his own desire for independence and control. As early as junior high school, young Tigar gained the election of student body president. Later, he practiced as an attorney for the renowned litigator Ed Williams in Washington D.C. at the Williams Connolly law firm. Williams was famous for entertaining clients and other lawyers on any number of subjects at bars after work. Tigar, however, preferred to attend such gatherings only on occasion or when absolutely necessary. Tigar also experienced to his displeasure the leadership of Joe Califano at Williams Connolly. Califano tended to lead the firm toward a bureaucratic practice that conflicted with Tigar's "organized chaos" conception of litigation.

*Fighting Injustice* includes very few aspects that will disappoint the reader. Tigar falls short of, however, a complete development of his criticism of civil law practice. He makes a few critical remarks about the apparent importance of billable hours and the apparent bureaucratic management in civil firms, but falls short of proposing an alternative to the problems. Indeed, his criticism appears to be little more than accusing civil law firms of being motivated by money and being too efficient. His contrast of civil practice with his criminal practice, which includes approximately one-third pro bono cases, lacks a fair discussion of the different factors and incentives involved in civil and criminal practices. Although his brief criticism demonstrates perceived problems, its presentation belies a thorough understanding of the differences between the civil and criminal practices of law or a reasonable alternative.

The factors contributing to injustice in the U.S.A. in virtually every criminal law context are developed with mastery and passion in *Fighting Injustice*. Michael Tigar uses a writing style that entertains and educates readers without assuming legal training, while simultaneously providing gems of instruction in the art of legal advocacy.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fighting the good fight

By A Customer

A vivid and engaging glimpse into the highstakes game of constitutional law. What's at issue is whether there will be any control at all over police and prosecutors in the USA. The cases and issues frame the world we in the USA will all have to live in, and it would be a far better one were Tigar's side to win. In the voice of an experienced (and winning) storyteller, Tigar takes the reader through the strategies, gambles and often humorous surprises of his stellar career of high profile cases. I'm a musician, not a lawyer (though I know some of the people Tigar mentions), and was never at a loss due to

technical language left unexplained. A great book.

In this book the author describes the battles both inside and outside the courtroom that have made him one of the world's most courageous defenders of personal freedoms.

"A personal and instructive account by one of America's leading criminal defense lawyers." -- Richard Goldstone, Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Former Chief Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia  
"No American lawyer has demonstrated more passion for justice." -- Greta Van Susteren, Host of Fox News Channels  
On the Record with Greta Van Susteren  
From the Publisher  
The book is the second in the ABA Biography Series: Lawyers Pursuing Justice, a new series of books published by the American Bar Association about successful lawyers who are visionaries, who inspire, or who are role models - in short, who work to make a positive contribution to society and the legal system.