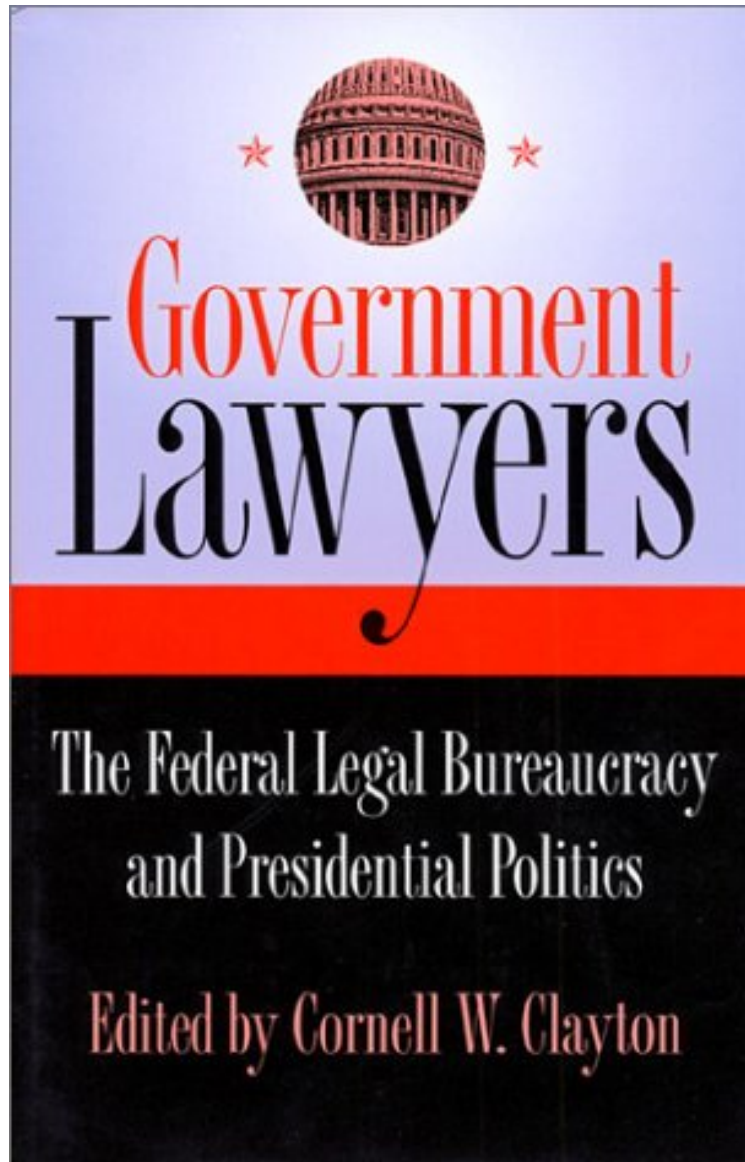


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Government Lawyers: The Federal Legal Bureaucracy and Presidential Politics

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essays, but, as one might expect, most of the focus is on presidential advisers and the DOJ. Only one article focused on the typical agency attorney which are most federal government lawyers. Still, that chapter pretty much nailed it- will use it to explain to others what I do day in day out.

For years many citizens have complained that our national government is fettered by legions of inefficient, unaccountable, feather-nesting lawyers. These critics might be right about the number there are nearly 40,000 lawyers employed by the federal government in every branch and at every level. But most of these professionals fulfill functions that are essential to or extremely valuable in running the machinery of government. In this volume, Cornell Clayton and eight other authorities on public law and legal agencies explore the role that politics play in this federal legal bureaucracy especially within the executive branch. They provide insights into the historical development, present status, future trends, and interrelations among the offices of the Attorney General, Solicitor General, Special Prosecutor, White House Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel, and counsels in regulatory agencies like the EPA and the EEOC. All the essays highlight a common theme the perpetual tensions and conflicts between executive-branch politics and the profession's principled independence. Readable and enlightening, these essays add much to our understanding of and remove some of the tarnish from this elite corps of legal experts. They should benefit anyone interested in the legal profession, presidential politics, administrative law, public policy, and bureaucratic politics in our nation's capital.