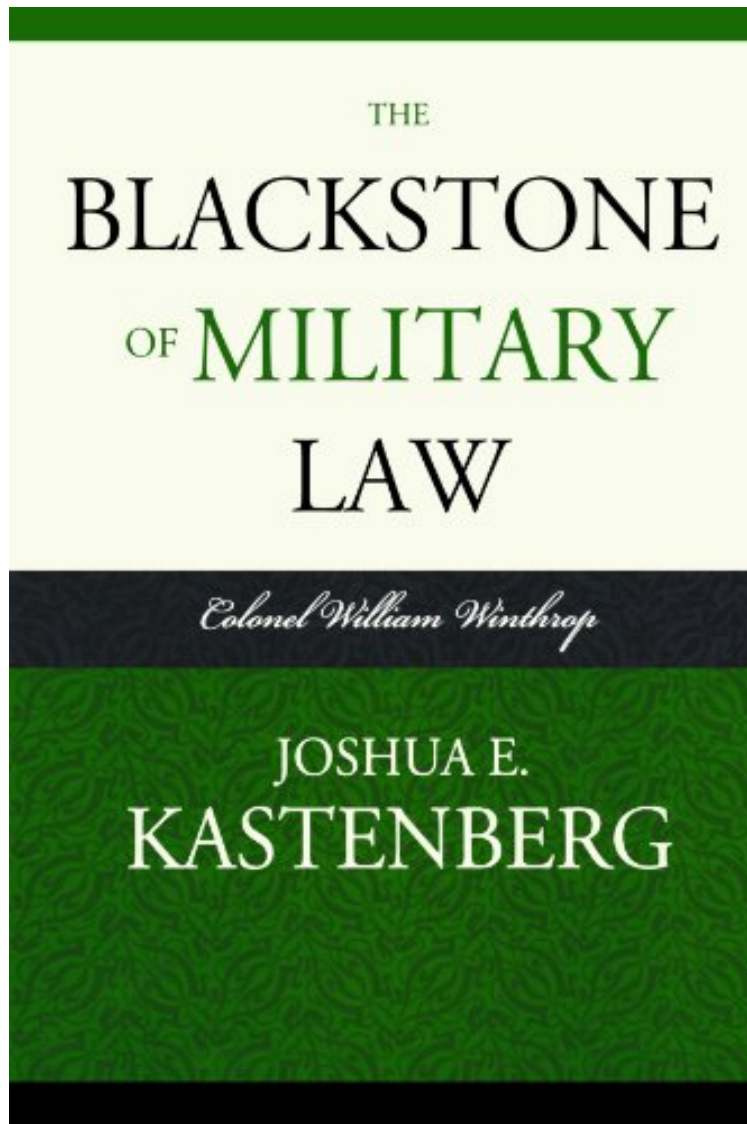


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## The Blackstone of Military Law: Colonel William Winthrop

*Joshua E. Kastenberg*

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating By Jeff Kaufman The author delves deep into sources to shine a light on a little known, but key, aspect of US military history. A must-read for anybody interested in US history. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An easy to read wonderfully written book for all interested in the evolution of military law in America. By Ms. M page turner I found the book to be informative, historically

fascinating, and above all brings to life the events and personalities that helped to develop and form America. Colonel Winthrop was certainly an important figure, intelligent- honorable- well educated- and a most important figure in our understanding of the evolution of Military Law as it exists today.

Colonel William Winthrop singularly was the most influential person in developing the military law of the United States. A half century ago, the Supreme Court tendered to Winthrop the title, "The Blackstone of Military Law," meaning simply that his influence outshone all others. He has been cited over 20 times by the highest court and well over a 1,000 times by other federal courts, state courts, and legal texts. In this, he surpasses most other legal scholars, save Joseph Story, John Marshall, or Felix Frankfurter. But while biographies of each of these Supreme Court Justices have been written, there has been none to date on Winthrop. *The Blackstone of Military Law: Colonel William Winthrop* is the first biography on this important figure in military and legal history. Written in both a chronological and thematic format, author Joshua E. Kastenberg begins with Winthrop's legal training, his involvement in abolitionism, his military experiences during the Civil War, and his long tenure as a judge advocate. This biography provides the necessary context to fully appreciate Winthrop's work, its meaning, and its continued relevance.

**About the Author** Joshua E. Kastenberg is an active duty officer in the United States Air Force, assigned to the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He has served as a legal advisor to a number of commands, including combatant commands and forward deployed operations.