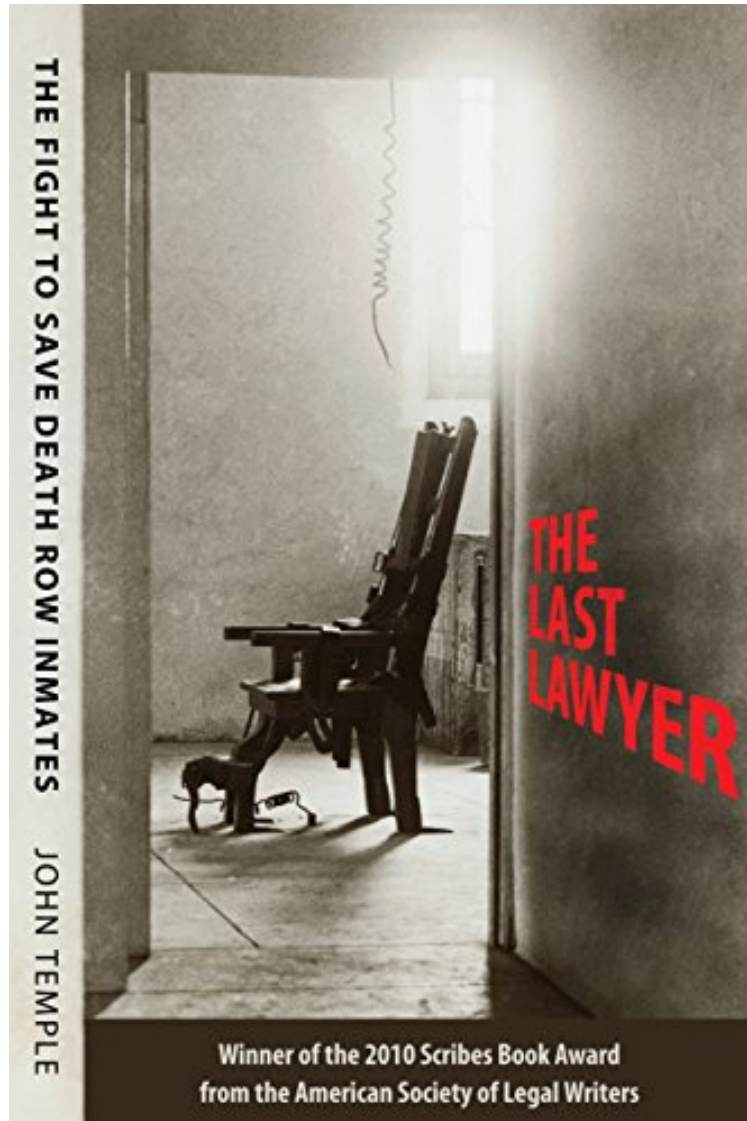


(Free) The Last Lawyer: The Fight to Save Death Row Inmates

The Last Lawyer: The Fight to Save Death Row Inmates

John Temple

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John Temple : The Last Lawyer: The Fight to Save Death Row Inmates before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Lawyer: The Fight to Save Death Row Inmates:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. a great bookBy DannyI finished The Last Lawyer late last night. It is a great book.This is a suspenseful story written without overly dramatizing and without synthetic suspense prose. It makes the legal system (almost) comprehensible to the average person. The people are presented in a compelling manner with all their humanity on display, neither deified nor condemned, just presented with understanding and

humor. The objectivity is laudable and is a lamentably lonely and badly needed model for journalists and non-fiction writers. This book will do a lot to help people understand the conundrum of death penalty law and practice, and it will be effective in part because the author reports the situation as he saw it without proselytizing. He neither pushes a viewpoint nor avoids saying what he sees. The people he admires have quirks and faults; those he doesn't have likable qualities. The writing seems very unselfconscious in this respect, which disarms the reader so accustomed to being manipulated by writers. One important thing of many that I learned is the point of view of the prosecutor, that if the death penalty weren't on the books, it would scale down the punishments for murder. I had never realized that aspect, the huge role plea bargaining plays in the whole system. We will never know (my guess) about the motivational role of the death penalty in discouraging murder, but it does seem reasonable to predict easier punishments resulting from its abolition, and to me that's a serious problem. The greatest tragedy (except for murder victims) of it all seems to me the huge time delays in resolving cases. Living on death row for 20 years - I can't see any benefit to anyone in that. Lessening the penalty for murder is a major concern, probably more important than the handful of executions that actually occur. Of course, the shoddy incompetence of the Bo Jones prosecution is lamentable. The legal system must be reformed! But, then again, does it work any less effectively than any of our other institutions? Probably not, but the consequences can be devastating for individuals. Who shall reform it? Not single minded zealots like Ken and company for sure. It seems to be our lot as humans in a society to have our institutions swing back and forth between imperfect positions. Maybe they just reflect our nature as humans - imperfectible.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Compelling Trip Through Our Legal System By Rob F. In "The Last Lawyer", author John Temple takes his readers on a compelling journey through the death penalty appellate process. He follows Ken Rose and his fellow attorneys and the investigators at the Center for Death Penalty Litigation (in Durham, NC) as they take on the case of Bo Jones, a former farmhand convicted of murder in 1993 and sentenced to death. In doing so the author weaves a rich story that is as engrossing as the best legal thriller, while at the same time exposing the reader to the often convoluted process of appealing a death penalty case through the state and federal court systems. Mr. Temple does all this in the context of a story that touches on themes of family, career, politics and justice. While the appeals process can seem hopelessly complicated and drawn out to non-lawyers, the author skillfully integrates the procedural steps taken by the lawyers into the narrative so that the story flows smoothly. As Bo Jones's case winds its way through the court system, the reader is given a realistic picture of the ups and downs faced by the parties as events (sometimes random, sometimes seemingly unjust) propel the case towards its conclusion. While these events play out over the course of several years, Mr. Temple does a masterful job of keeping the story moving so that at no time does the reader feel that events are dragging. Although the case is recounted through the eyes of Mr. Rose and his colleagues, the author does his best to present the motives of the many other characters we meet: the defendant's attorney at the original trial, the prosecuting attorney, the primary witness, and the state's attorney handling the appeal. Mr. Temple relies on interviews of the parties and notes and recollections of contemporaneous conversations amongst them (unfortunately not all the parties involved were willing to speak with him) and does not "create" details to add color to the story. He provides us with a well-developed sense of the challenges faced by Mr. Rose and his colleagues both in this case and in their appellate work generally. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and highly recommend it to anyone.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very well written By J.F. Full disclosure- the author is related to my wife. I read both fiction and non-fiction regularly and this is a very good book. The writing flows with the description and plot of a good fiction novel. The most important part of the plot is that the whole story is true- it is meticulously researched by the author with careful attention to detail. Probably the only thing that suffers (in comparison to a work of fiction) is the character development. This story takes place in my home state of North Carolina but could take place anywhere in the United States. This story brings to light just how flawed our justice system can be. John Temple is a talented writer and this is one of the best non-fiction books I have read in a long time.

The Last Lawyer is the true, inside story of how an idealistic legal genius and his diverse band of investigators and fellow attorneys fought to overturn a client's final sentence. Ken Rose has handled more capital appeals cases than almost any other attorney in the United States. The Last Lawyer chronicles Rose's decade-long defense of Bo Jones, a North Carolina farmhand convicted of a 1987 murder. Rose called this his most frustrating case in twenty-five years, and it was one that received scant attention from judges or journalists. The Jones case bares the thorniest issues surrounding capital punishment. Inadequate legal counsel, mental retardation, mental illness, and sketchy witness testimony stymied Jones's original defense. Yet for many years, Rose's advocacy gained no traction, and Bo Jones came within three days of his execution. The book follows Rose through a decade of setbacks and small triumphs as he gradually unearthed the evidence he hoped would save his client's life. At the same time, Rose also single-handedly built a nonprofit law firm that became a major force in the death penalty debate raging across the South. The Last Lawyer offers unprecedented access to the inner workings of a capital defense team. Based on four-and-a-half years of behind-the-scenes reporting by a journalism professor and nonfiction author, The Last Lawyer tells the unforgettable story of a lawyer's fight for justice.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . For years, lawyer Ken Rose has fought to save wrongly-condemned prisoners; chronicling the story of Rose and death row inmate Bo Jones, author Temple (*Deadhouse: Life in a Coroner's Office*) finds high drama in Raleigh penitentiaries, North Carolina backroads, cramped law offices, and sweltering courtrooms. Investigators, criminals, judges, witnesses, and attorneys are all finely, vividly drawn in this disturbing account of a justice system hijacked by officials whose prime interest is finding criminals to execute: "Even if Bo Jones wasn't one of the worst of the worst, they pursued him because he was one of the ones they could get." ing the original 1987 murder, the consequent trials and endless hearings, Temple creates an intimate portrait of Rose and his Center for Death Penalty Litigation as they trudge through a decade of work on this case, a typical example that pits the odds and public opinion against them: "To question capital punishment was to appear soft on crime... In court, one well known district attorney sported a golden lapel pin shaped like a hangman's noose." Ultimately, Temple's account is a stand-up-and cheer account of one man standing up for justice. For years, lawyer Ken Rose has fought to save wrongly-condemned prisoners; chronicling the story of Rose and death row inmate Bo Jones, author Temple (*Deadhouse: Life in a Coroners Office*) finds high drama in Raleigh penitentiaries, North Carolina backroads, cramped law offices, and sweltering courtrooms. ing the original 1987 murder, the consequent trials and endless hearings, Temple creates an intimate portrait of Rose and his Center for Death Penalty Litigation as they trudge through a decade of work on this case, a typical example that pits the odds and public opinion against them: To question capital punishment was to appear soft on crime. . . In court, one well-known district attorney sported a golden lapel pin shaped like a hangmans noose. Ultimately, Temples account is a stand-up-and-cheer account of one man standing up for justice. Publishers Weekly, starred review John Temples *The Last Lawyer* is a compulsively readable indictment of a fatally flawed system. It reads like first-class legal fiction, but its far more compelling because it is, tragically, legal fact. Leonard Pitts, Jr., Pulitzer Prizewinning syndicated columnist for the Miami Herald and author of the novel, *Before I Forget* About the Author John Temple is the author of *Deadhouse: Life in a Coroners Office* (2005), published by the University Press of Mississippi. His most recent book, *American Pain*, was named a Best Book of 2015 in the True Crime category by *Suspense Magazine*. Temple lives in Morgantown, West Virginia, where he is an associate professor of journalism at the Reed College of Media at West Virginia University. Prior to teaching, Temple was a newspaper reporter in Pittsburgh, Greensboro, and Tampa. More information about Temple and his books can be found at www.johntemplebooks.com.