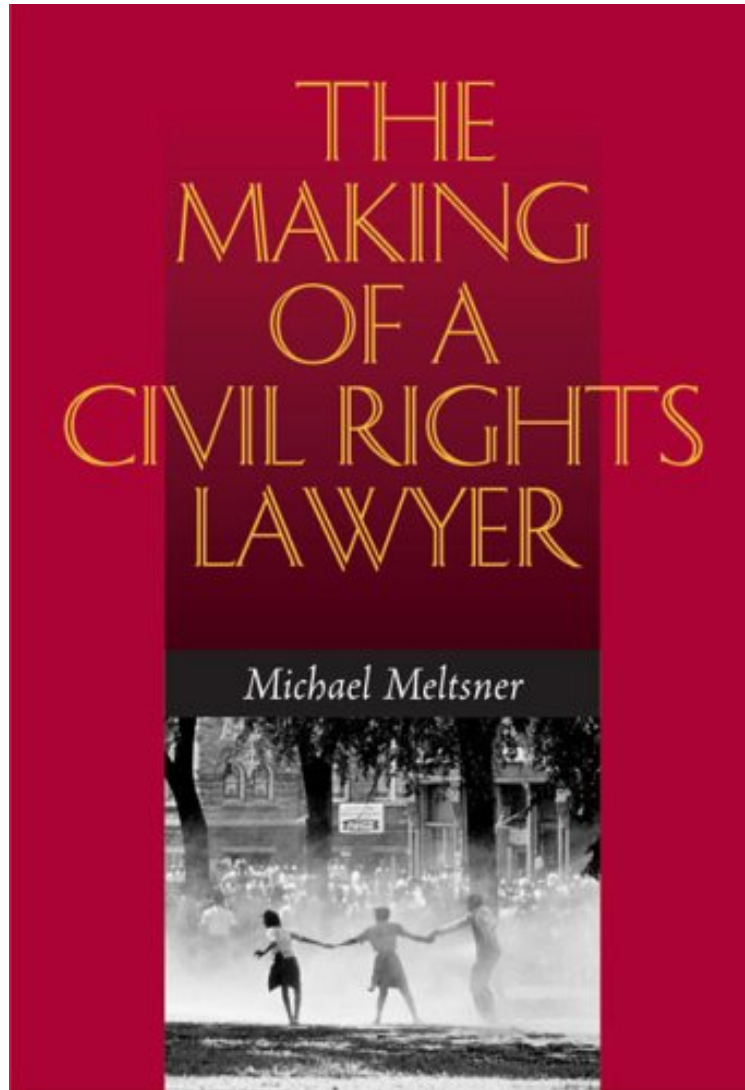


[Free pdf] The Making of a Civil Rights Lawyer

The Making of a Civil Rights Lawyer

Michael Meltsner

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



 Download

 Read Online

#279902 in Books University of Virginia Press 2006-04-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.22 x 1.03 x 6.36l, 1.29 #File Name: 0813925010336 pages | File size: 15.Mb

Michael Meltsner : The Making of a Civil Rights Lawyer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of a Civil Rights Lawyer:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Portrait of An AgeBy Lois E. BrynesThis is a first-rate read. The book is a biography no so much of a "civil rights lawyer" as of a critical period in US history--the coming of age of the Civil Rights movement. With the inside stories Meltsner provides, we see the exacting day to day (and night) work of people struggling for the rights of all of us. The bad guys are even worse than we thought--the good guys, in government, not nearly as good as we thought.This is more than a portrait of an age. It is an important book to read at

this time, when the rights these men and women--not to mention the founding fathers--so clearly articulated and fought for are under siege. As a bonus, it is very well written!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Must ReadBy Serena Sue HilsingerMeltsner's THE MAKING OF A CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER is a powerful and timely book. It should be "required reading" for those of us who came of political age in the early sixties (that time of hope) and for all of us who now watch--helplessly and hoplessly--the corrupt, methodical erosion of those truths we hold to be self evident.

"It was not until I arrived at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund that I learned my profession, how to work with colleagues and clients, and how it might feel to grow up in the law." So begins Michael Meltsner's vivid account of how as a lawyer for Muhammad Ali, for the doctors who ended Jim Crow at American hospitals, and for scores of death row inmates he became such a deeply involved activist in the civil rights movement. Part memoir and part critical study, *The Making of a Civil Rights Lawyer* offers both a personalized history of the civil rights movement from a participant's perspective, and the compelling account of how a lawyer committed to social change discovered himself in his work. Focused on the inside story of law reform, the book contains portraits of some larger-than-life figures, including Thurgood Marshall, William Kunstler, and the charismatic black law professor Derrick Bell, as well as of unheralded movers and shakers such as the attorney C. B. King of Albany, Georgia, and Margaret Burnham, who as a young lawyer representing Angela Davis got caught in a racial and generational crossfire. Alongside these recollections, Meltsner provides a critical analysis of early civil rights efforts to achieve social change through litigation while also providing the wider context of the personalities, policies, and tactics that continue to shape reform efforts today. Deeply researched and using case files that have previously been off-limits to historians, *The Making of a Civil Rights Lawyer* will appeal to young and upcoming lawyers, to students of the history of the 1960s, of civil rights, and of African American studies, and to anyone interested in social change.

From BooklistAs a white Yale Law School graduate, Meltsner began his career with the Legal Defense Fund of the NAACP, working initially under Thurgood Marshall and later under Jack Greenberg. From his vantage point at LDF, Meltsner witnessed and participated in litigation support of the civil rights movement in the South. As the movement shifted north and the fight for desegregation gave way to black-power slogans, Meltsner remained involved with the LDF and later went on to teach public interest practice at Columbia Law School. He watched the move from the high expectations after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision to the lows of subsequent resegregation. He recalls his involvement in other civil rights efforts, from the campaigns to abolish capital punishment to Muhammad Ali's legal battle to regain his right to box. Meltsner closes with a chapter that examines the strategic possibilities of the No Child Left Behind mandate. Meltsner brings a personal perspective to this assessment of the hopes, potential, and shifting terrain of public service law. A worthy read. Vernon FordCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Michael Meltsner has performed a great public service by recalling from his perspective as a lawyer at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund how lawyers helped bring about social change during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. This memoir will be of great interest to a generation unfamiliar with that remarkable time in American history, as well as to those familiar with the people and controversies he recalls. (Stephen B. Bright, Director, Southern Center for Human Rights)Near the epicenter of the battle to eliminate legal segregation, and placed on a fascinating professional trajectory, Meltsner presents a thoughtful, wide-ranging, historically rich account of how that experience shaped him. (Boston Globe)About the AuthorMichael Meltsner, former Guggenheim Fellow and Berlin Prize Fellow at the American Academy, has been a Professor of Law at Columbia and Harvard Law Schools and Dean at Northeastern School of Law, where he is currently Matthews Distinguished University Professor of Law. Author of *Cruel and Unusual*, the authoritative history of the Legal Defense Fund's campaign to abolish the death penalty, and a novel *Short Takes*, he is also a licensed marriage and family therapist. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.