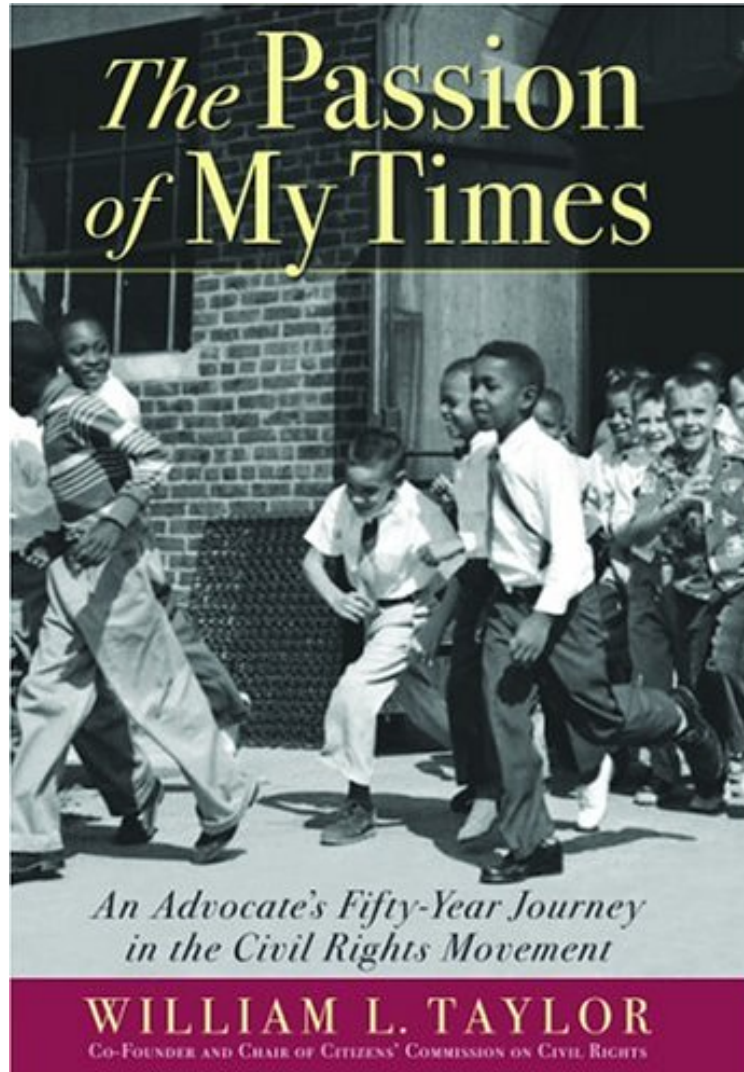


(Mobile book) The Passion of My Times: An Advocate's Fifty-Year Journey in the Civil Rights Movement

The Passion of My Times: An Advocate's Fifty-Year Journey in the Civil Rights Movement

William L. Taylor

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#3691528 in Books Da Capo Press 2004-10-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 1.10 x 6.36 x 9.36l, 1.22
#File Name: 0786714247352 pages | File size: 73.Mb

William L. Taylor : The Passion of My Times: An Advocate's Fifty-Year Journey in the Civil Rights Movement before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Passion of My Times: An Advocate's Fifty-Year Journey in the Civil Rights Movement:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The bible of modern civil rights advocacy! By W. P. McCrone William Taylor is a gifted writer and one of the great civil rights lawyers of our time. His leadership/insider view of the multiple dimensions of civil rights advocacy [data and testimony collection, Congressional hearings, the courts,

regulation enforcement, executive orders, judicial appointment fights, etc.]is must reading for all, particularly people of color, women, people with disabilities, and others who still aspire to justice and the American dream. Bill McCrone, Ph.D., J.D.

In 1954, William L. Taylor, a recent Yale Law School graduate, joined Thurgood Marshall's NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where he would later write the victorious 1958 Supreme Court brief that forced Little Rock, Arkansas schools to desegregate. In this historic book, Taylor recalls the triumphs, setbacks, and ongoing challenges in the battle for civil rights from his own unique and influential perspective. From the tireless struggle to enforce the desegregation of public schools to recent victories protecting the interests of minority schoolchildren in St. Louis, Taylor has influenced policymakers across the political spectrum. He has written landmark pieces of legislation, lobbied them through Congress, and developed strategies that have led to significant social change. In this inspiring insider's account, Taylor discusses civil rights policy over the decades, while also chronicling his encounters with presidents, other legislators, his work with civil rights leaders, and his friendships with the people he has met in the movement. The civil rights movement has been the passion of our times since *Brown v. Board of Education*. *The Passion of My Times* is a significant contribution to the literature of the movement and one that promises to energize a new generation of activists.

From Publishers Weekly Shortly after his 1954 graduation from Yale Law School, Taylor found his calling: first as an attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, later as staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (1965-1968) and founder of the Center for National Policy. His lucid memoir offers an up-close look at the nuts-and-bolts work (collecting data, pushing legislation, securing effective administration of law and policy) behind major moments in the Civil Rights movement and its aftermath. Selma is here, but Senate hearings are more central, as Taylor describes being involved "in big court cases, in major legislative efforts, in planning civil rights strategy, and in persuading people with power or influence to do the right thing." Although there are lively anecdotal touches (Senator Orrin Hatch as "a peculiar amalgam of... Uriah Heep and Ebenezer Scrooge"; U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach provoked into calling Taylor a "cocksucker"), the tone is matter-of-fact. What makes Taylor's book of special value, particularly to historians of the era, is that Taylor neither dramatizes nor romanticizes this work ("We did not establish the conditions that made enactment of the laws possible"), but honors everyone working for change. The movement needed Taylors as well as Kings. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Taylor, a Jewish civil rights lawyer with long ties to major civil rights groups and figures, recalls his life in the movement. Part memoir, part advocacy, Taylor's recollections highlight the enormous progress that has been made in civil rights and the long road ahead before the nation can be said to have truly achieved equal rights for all citizens. Taylor, then a recent Yale Law School graduate, joined Thurgood Marshall at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in 1954 and helped to write the 1958 brief that eventually forced school desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas. He describes the long and arduous legal struggles behind that victory--and the lives of the individuals affected--as well as the other triumphs and setbacks seen by the movement. He recalls friendships, alliances, and battles with a range of civil rights leaders, presidents, and legislators in the long struggle to desegregate. He also offers an analysis of the continued challenges to securing racial justice. For those interested in legal and political perspectives on the civil rights movement. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author WILLIAM L. TAYLOR is a graduate of Brooklyn College and the Yale Law School. In the 1960s he served as General Counsel of the United States Commission on Civil Rights where he directed major investigations and research studies that contributed to the enactment of civil rights laws. He founded and directed the Center for National Policy, has long been a leader of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and is the Chair of the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights. He received the first Thurgood Marshall Award conferred by the District of Columbia Bar in 1993 and in 2001 received the Hubert H. Humphrey Award from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. He lives in Washington, D.C.