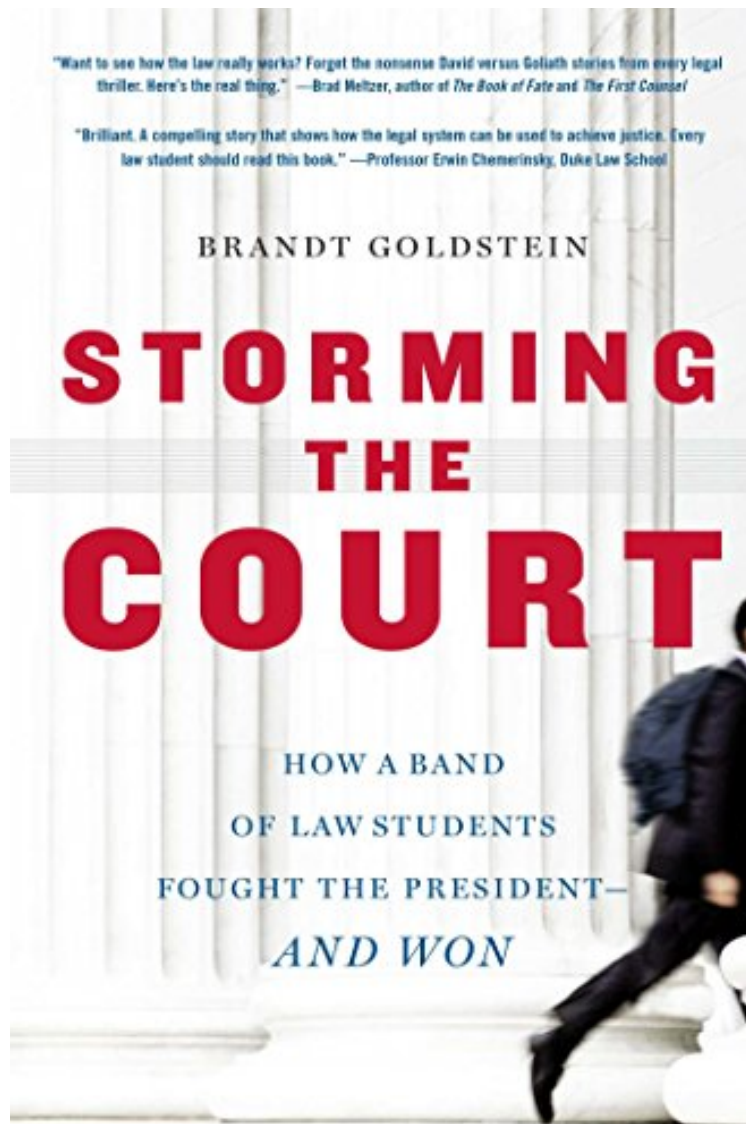


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## Storming the Court: How a Band of Law Students Fought the President--and Won

Brandt Goldstein

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**Brandt Goldstein : Storming the Court: How a Band of Law Students Fought the President--and Won** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Storming the Court: How a Band of Law Students Fought the President--and Won:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Required read but amazing. By Michael Borger When my law school registration packet came in the mail and I saw that in addition to the \$1,000 worth of required books I needed for my

classes there was an additional novel that I was required to read before orientation, I was a little unnerved. My initial plan was to hold off reading until a few nights before my orientation so the contents of *Storming the Court* was fresh in my mind and I could engage in discussion questions with confidence. When the book came in the mail, I figured I would do a quick skim of the first few pages just to see what the story was about and then I would put it on the bookshelf until August. Well, the "quick skim" turned into an all-nighter filled with a few cups of coffee and a lot of quick page turning. The book reads like a David Baldacci thriller. There is so much action, drama and real life human emotion in this book that it was impossible to put down. I refuse to put plot details in my book reviews but the greatest part of this book is how relatable the characters were to myself. They reinforced why I wanted to go to law school in the first place- to help people. This was a fantastic book and I really hope that you read it whether it's required by your school or not, whether you're a law student or not, or whether or not you think you would or wouldn't like a legal thriller. CHECK IT OUT! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed this book By Customer I really enjoyed this book. The story is compelling and I could not stop reading. In addition, it is written in a fascinating way, with two parallel stories that at some point intertwine. It demonstrates the reality of the courts and the influence of politics. I recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Haven't met anyone who read the book and didn't LOVE it. By Michele Joo I love this book. The story itself and the story-telling is truly exceptional. Both inspiring (the Law students and the Haitian refugees) and enraging (the United States government), the book is an absolute page-turner! I have personally bought about 20 copies of the book and given it to friends and colleagues, and I will continue to do so. You just can't go wrong with *Storming the Court*! Thanks Brandt Goldstein, keep 'em coming!

In 1992, three hundred innocent Haitian men, women, and children who had qualified for political asylum in the United States were detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba -- and told they might never be freed. Charismatic democracy activist Yvonne Pascal and her fellow refugees had no contact with the outside world, no lawyers, and no hope . . . until a group of inspired Yale Law School students vowed to free them. Pitting the students and their untested professor Harold Koh against Kenneth Starr, the Justice Department, the Pentagon, and Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, this real-life legal thriller takes the reader from the halls of Yale and the federal courts of New York to the slums of Port-au-Prince and the windswept hills of Guantanamo Bay and ultimately to the U.S. Supreme Court. Written with grace and passion, *Storming the Court* captures the emotional highs and despairing lows of a legal education like no other -- a high-stakes courtroom campaign against the White House in the name of the greatest of American values: freedom.

From Publishers Weekly In 1992 a team of Yale law students and other human rights activists sought to enjoin the government from detaining Haitian refugees indefinitely at Guantanamo Bay, without charges or access to counsel. Lawyer Goldstein tells their story with authority: he was a classmate of many of the student activists, although not a participant in the case. Two of the primary characters are Harold Koh, the dedicated, even driven, Yale professor who led the legal fight, and the courageous, pseudonymous "Yvonne Pascal," who emerged as a spokeswoman for the Haitian refugees. Goldstein's sympathies are wholeheartedly with the Haitians and those working on their behalf. A greater effort to articulate the government's argument would have improved the book and made the case's mixed outcome more understandable. After protracted litigation in federal court and the U.S. Supreme Court, the Haitians were discharged from Gitmo, but the policy questions involving the reach of the government's power were resolved in the government's favor. This is a timely (given the issue of detaining terror suspects today) and passionate account, but would have benefited from less hero worship of the activists and less demonizing of the government. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Goldstein has written a compelling story with contemporary significance that thus far has failed to capture the public attention. In 1992, a group of Yale law students began a heroic and substantial effort to free 300 Haitian refugees held by the U.S. at Guantanamo Bay. The students plodded through this arduous process alone, often risking their goal of high-end employment, and found a way to take on the president and the U.S. government. And they won. This story has a ring of similarity with the Northwestern University journalism students who helped to free some death-row convicts and spark a moratorium on the death penalty in Illinois. But a major difference is the lack of public awareness of the law--- student efforts, which may reflect a greater discomfort with the issues involved. These 300 detainees were all black Haitians, men, women, and children--all HIV-positive. The Haitians have since all been granted political asylum in the U.S. This story provides an interesting backdrop to discussions about the application of U.S. law to persons held by the U.S. at Guantanamo Bay. Vernon Ford Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Want to see how the law really works? Forget the nonsense David versus Goliath stories from every legal thriller. Here's the real thing." -- Brad Meltzer, author of *The Book of Fate* and *The First Counsel* "Brilliant. A compelling story that shows how the legal system can be used to achieve justice. Every law student should read this book." -- Professor Erwin Chemerinsky, Duke Law School "A gripping and psychologically insightful narrative . . . which combines constitutional drama, superb reporting, and shrewd insights from beginning to end." -- Jeffrey Rosen, author of *The Most Democratic Branch* and *The Unwanted Gaze* "Fast-paced . . . cinematic." -- The Washington Post "A timely and

passionate account." -- Publishers Weekly "Riveting, masterfully told . . . Goldstein writes like a dream as he vividly brings the stories of the refugees and the lawyers alive." -- Clara Bingham, coauthor of *Class Action: The Landmark Case That Changed Sexual Harassment Law* "A revealing look at the legal system, a compelling human rights story, and an inspirational tale of dedicated people who refuse to accept the status quo." -- Kirkus (starred review)