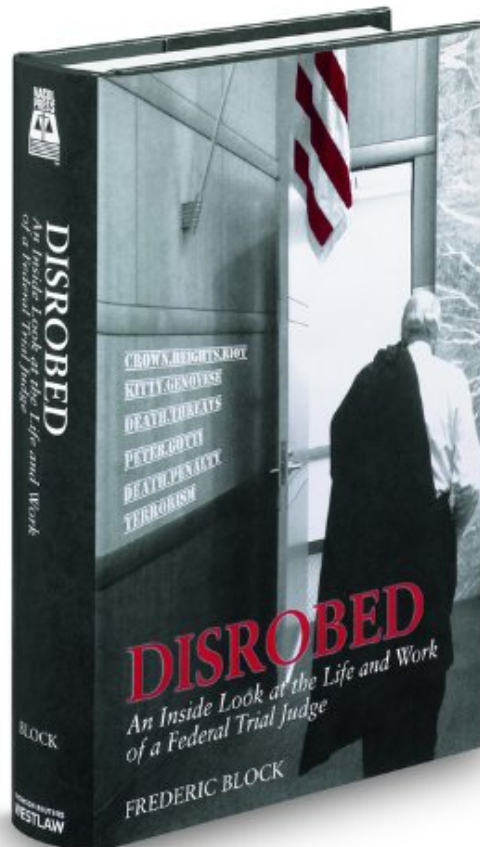


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Frederic Block

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Frederic Block : Disrobed: An Inside Look at the Life and Work of a Federal Trial Judge before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Disrobed: An Inside Look at the Life and Work of a Federal Trial Judge:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Life of A Federal Judge By Frederick S. Goethel So, how do you become a Federal judge and what do you do once you gain that lofty seat? Judge Block has written a book that will answer those questions and more. From the time he graduated law school through to his time on the bench, this book is the story of Judge Blocks legal career. The information on becoming a judge (how they are picked and approve) was fascinating. In addition, the duties he outlines were also quite interesting. However, the first 150+/-pages, which deal with life as a small town judge on Long Island and his participation in local politics were a dull and slow read. Overall, the book has some excellent material that is very interesting, but it needs to be pruned by a good editor. Shaving 100 pages from the book would speed it up and make it a much better read. 0 of 1 people found the following review

helpful. Aptly Titled By James C. Raymond Judges, as I often tell lawyers in my seminars, are kinda like people. Disrobed proves the point. It reveals Judge Block, warts and all, as a human being and as a skilled jurist. He writes in several voices: casual and friendly in the early chapters, where he tells about his personal life; formal and scholarly but never pretentious or pedantic in the later chapters, where he discusses issues like drugs, guns, race riots, and terrorism. At times you feel you're hanging out with your friend the judge in a well furnished pub while he reveals his college escapades, his encounters with Nassau County political bosses, his family life, his dalliance with musical comedy in "Professionally Speaking." And then you feel you've been invited into his chambers where he hangs up his robe and tells you what he was thinking when he conducted some of the most interesting and difficult cases to come before the Federal Court for the Eastern District of New York. You get to know a savvy lawyer who became a skillful and knowledgeable judge, courteous and fair to the parties, humorous (but never at the expense of the litigants) and humble (but not without the confidence required of an effective judge). He reports without rancor the times he was called "Judge Blockhead" in the Daily News and vilified by a columnist in the New York Post. But then again, he seems to have fully deserved the way the Wall Street Journal described his performance in a case regarding Bear Stearns hedge fund managers: "He's Fair, Funny, and Frank." All in all a good read, particularly for young lawyers and new judges, but in fact for anyone interested in the inner workings of a judicial mind. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Content lives up to its promising title. By Michael Louis Minns It certainly didn't hurt that a former President of the United States endorsed the book. Couple that with a title that promised a great deal and I was hooked to buy it. As a trial lawyer, my biggest regret was that I had not had the opportunity to try a case in this Judge's courtroom. By the end of the book you get to know the Judge, and like him. Wise and Humble. Honest and open. Easy to read. Kind to his peers and to the parties who appeared before him in very thoughtful ways. The Judge shares insights you can't get without sitting on the bench, and offers innovative thinking about ways to improve the legal system, although he does not come right out and say that. His book will make me a better lawyer and a better citizen. The title offered a great deal, so I was ready to be dissatisfied... but I wasn't. The Judge delivered what the title promised. I wish I had read this book 30 years ago, but alas, it hadn't been written. I am giving copies to several young lawyers so that they will have the book before lots of their career time passes. For someone interested in the Federal Legal system, the law and the politics, I highly recommend this book.

Get a unique look at the life and trials of Federal District Court Judge Frederic Block, whose bench sits in the heart of New York City. The book was written for the general public in an effort to explain, in practical terms, the perspective behind some of the most newsworthy and sensational cases of the last 20 years. The Judge discusses the death penalty, racketeering, gun laws, drug laws, discrimination laws, race riots, terrorism, and foreign affairs, as well as the more humble aspects of being a man on the bench.

Judge Block gives the reader an engaging, often humorous account of his life, as always, and a compelling introduction to the world of a Federal judge whose decisions are subject to plenty of public scrutiny but whose decision-making process remains a mystery for most Americans. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON Founder of the William J. Clinton Foundation and 42nd President of the United States --President Bill Clinton At 78, Frederic Block is going strong. He still hears cases as a senior judge in Federal District Court for the Eastern District, which has jurisdiction over Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island. He picked up modern Greek a few years ago. And now, he has written an engaging autobiography titled *Disrobed: An Inside Look at the Life and Work of a Federal Trial Judge* (Thomson Reuters Westlaw, \$29.95). Despite the title, don't expect a bare-all book. Still, Judge Block offers a rare look behind decision-making on the federal bench. His stated goal was to make judicial proceedings accessible to the layman, and mercifully, without footnotes he largely succeeds. He has plenty of experience to draw on, including cases involving the Crown Heights riots, Kitty Genovese and Peter Gotti. And he has plenty to say. This is, after all, the same forthright jurist who warned prosecutors in a murder-for-hire case that seeking the death penalty was absurd, and who once worried aloud that he would have egg foo young on my face if a Chinese defendant skipped bail. A version of this article appeared in print on August 12, 2012, on page MB3 of the New York edition with the headline: Exploring a Lyricist and a Brooklyn Bohemia . By SAM ROBERTS Published: August 10, 2012 --A version of this article appeared in print on August 12, 2012, on page MB3 of the New York edition with the headline: Exploring a Lyricist and a Brooklyn Bohemia . By Sam Roberts About the Author Fred Block practiced law for 34 years as a small-town lawyer before he was appointed to the federal district court bench in 1994 by President Bill Clinton. He is an Indiana University alumnus and received his law degree from Cornell Law School. Far removed from New York City he made his mark in private practice by successfully handling a number of pivotal national cases. As reflected in this book, Judge Block has a creative flair. A jazz musician, he previously showed off his artistic talent in an off-Broadway musical he co-authored - both music and lyrics - ;Professionally Speaking, and a host of country songs he wrote, before the bench beckoned.