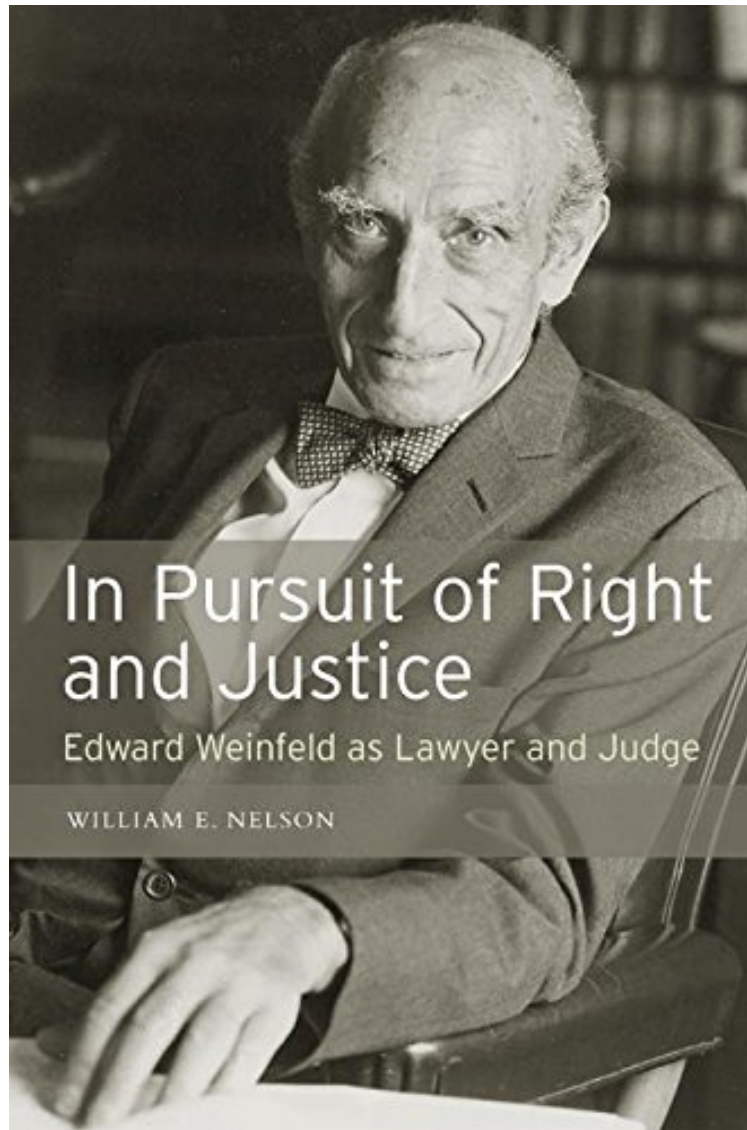


(Download) In Pursuit of Right and Justice: Edward Weinfeld As Lawyer and Judge

# In Pursuit of Right and Justice: Edward Weinfeld As Lawyer and Judge

*William E Nelson*

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#3304425 in Books NYU Press 2004-08-30 2004-08-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .81 x 5.981, 1.24 #File Name: 0814758282291 pages | File size: 26.Mb

**William E Nelson : In Pursuit of Right and Justice: Edward Weinfeld As Lawyer and Judge** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Pursuit of Right and Justice: Edward Weinfeld As Lawyer and Judge:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Judicial Biography of an Outstanding Judge By Ronald H. Clark This is a very fine biography of U.S. District Judge Edward Weinfeld (1901-1988), who served on the

Southern District of New York from 1950 until his death. The author, a distinguished legal historian at NYU Law, has added insights into the Judge due to his tenure as Weinfeld's clerk during 1965-1966. However, the real foundation of the volume is extraordinary research into published and unpublished sources, plus a nice range of interviews as well. As solid an accomplishment as the book is as a judicial biography, its contributions go far beyond even that. The book traces Weinfeld from his youth on the Lower East Side in the early years of the 20th century, as he undergoes a process of socialization in the public schools. It follows his legal education at NYU and his early practice--thereby demonstrating the role that legal education played in upward mobility for some. It discusses his political and governmental activities, and his close relationship with Governor Lehman. It illustrates how one becomes a district judge, but also can fail in securing promotion to the Circuit Court of Appeals. But most importantly, the book -- almost more than any other I can think of -- focuses on the values that guided Weinfeld's judicial decision making and his perception of the judicial role. For students of the judicial process, this discussion is a goldmine of invaluable insights, and the author is to be commended for the skill and diligence with which he develops this perspective. At 227 pages of text, the narrative moves along quite nicely; plus there are 54 pages of useful notes. It clearly is the biography that such a great judge deserves.

In Pursuit of Right and Justice chronicles the life of the United States District Court's Judge Edward Weinfeld, from his humble Lower East Side origins to his distinction as one of the nation's most respected federal judges. Judge Edward Weinfeld's personal growth and socio-economic mobility provides an excellent illustration of how Catholics and Jews descended from turn-of-the-century immigrants were assimilated into the mainstream of New York and American life during the course of the twentieth century. Weinfeld left a rich collection of personal papers that William E. Nelson examines, which depict the compromises and sacrifices Weinfeld had to make to attain professional advancement. Weinfeld's jurisprudence remained closely tied to his own personal values and to the historical contexts in which cases came to his court. Nelson aptly describes how Weinfeld strove to avoid making new law. He tried to make decisions on preexisting rules or bedrock legal principles; he achieved just results by searching for and finding facts that called those rules into play. Weinfeld's vision of justice was simultaneously a liberal one that enabled him to develop law that reflected societal change, and an apolitical one that did not rest on contested policy judgments.

"Provides a richly documented history of Weinfeld's personal and professional life."-The Law and Politics Book "This book leaves Weinfeld, as most of his social circle doubtless found him: an admirable and highly accomplished man whose deeper self remained a mystery, perhaps to him as much as to anyone else."-TrialAbout the AuthorWilliam E. Nelson served as law clerk to Judge Edward Weinfeld during 1965-66. He later was law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White. He is currently professor of law at New York University.