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Charley Wells

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Charley Wells : Inside Bush v. Gore (Florida Government and Politics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inside Bush v. Gore (Florida Government and Politics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bush v. Gore from inside the chambers of Florida CourtBy Political ObserverBush v. Gore is probably the most interesting and controversial set of cases to come out of our courts in the last thirty years. The reviews and discussions are almost always colored by the political lens in which the commentator sees the issues. But at its core, Bush v. Gore was a legal contest with the candidate who had the lesser of the first count

of the votes challenging the votes through a "protest" phase and then a "contest" phase under Florida law. Inside Bush v. Gore lets the reader be the judge on the Florida Supreme Court as the cases came to the court. It lets you look at the laws and the arguments of the two sides. What is striking is how convoluted the state laws were and how tight the timetable was under the Constitution and the federal law for making a decision. As Chief Justice Wells states in his introduction, what few commentators have noted is that thirty-six days was about all the time there was for Florida to choose its electors under federal law. This issue of the tight timetable needs to be discussed in public. In the end, I agree with Justice Wells, but this is a debatable point. If a more exact result can be determined as to who won a state, should there be more time for the judicial process and counting process to play out or is it essential as Justice Wells argues for there to be a short time period in order to ensure a quick and orderly transition of power in the Presidency. Certainly, the length of time it took to come to the right result (or at least a result) in the Senate race between Al Franken and Norm Coleman in Minnesota could not have happened. In the end, Justice Wells concluded that the margin of error exceeded the margin of victory in the election in Florida. This is a very unsettling conclusion, but I expect he is correct. It was important to come to a final determination. But at what cost? These issues are controversial. These issues are unsettling. These issues should be debated before our next Presidential election. Thank you to Chief Justice Wells for bringing these issues to the public debate so we can wrestle with them anew. I loved this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Relive Bush v. Gore As It Races Through the Courts By The Floridian I found Inside Bush v. Gore to be one of the best non-fiction books I have read in a long time for placing me in the middle of a historic moment with the decision makers. In this case, the decision makers are the justices of the Florida Supreme Court. While when most people think of Bush v. Gore today, they think about the final decision of the United States Supreme Court, the real action was at the Florida Supreme Court. This was the court that ultimately ordered the statewide recount. It was also the court that had the first arguments. As I recall, it was when the Florida Supreme Court held its first arguments on television that the nation began to really feel like there was a real process for resolving this close election. Chief Justice Wells does a good job of explaining why television cameras (or one camera) was allowed in the courtroom, which contrasts with the fact that they are not allowed in the U.S. Supreme Court. The video highlights that can be found on the Inside Bush v. Gore website [...] of the Florida Supreme Court arguments make a great extra to the book and helped me remember exactly what happened in the arguments. Ultimately, one of the more interesting new perspectives that this book brings is on the first of the two United States Supreme Court decisions. It was fascinating to read how disruptive and out of left field the U.S. Supreme Court's first intervention was just after Thanksgiving. Ultimately, in reading the book, it feels like that intervention and the U.S. Supreme Court's citation of an obscure 1890s decision called *McPherson v. Blacker* that really spun Bush v. Gore out of control so that no real legal resolution could be found within the very short time span allowed under federal law for the choosing of electors. This book raises a lot of interesting ground that surprised me given all of the commentary and books on Bush v. Gore. I highly recommend it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Complexity Made Clear By James A. Harnish Charley Wells takes us behind the news reports and political rhetoric into the work and life of the Florida Supreme Court. He cuts through all the 24-hour-cable-news chatter to walk us through the actual decisions the Court was forced to make. Best of all, he makes the legal complexity of the process understandable for ordinary people who do not deal with statutes and legal practices on a daily basis. His conclusion -- that we as a nation were willing to trust the courts to be the place where the final decision was made -- is a critically important reminder of both the strength and importance of an independent judiciary. A great read and a healthy reminder in our politically polarized culture.

The Bush v. Gore legal challenge constituted the perfect political and legal storm. Thankfully, Charley Wells sheds his black robe to give readers an easy-to-read, insiders account of the personalities, politics, and legal concerns involved in that landmark case. Robert Watson, author of *Counting Votes* Chief Justice Wells has written a riveting inside account of the Florida Supreme Court's actions during the disputed 2000 presidential election. A must-read for students of the Bush v. Gore fiasco. Richard L. Hasen, author of *The Voting Wars* A must-read for jurists, political scientists, historians, and others interested in understanding how the Florida Supreme Court reached its decisions in the disputed 2000 presidential election. Lance deHaven-Smith, author of *Government in the Sunshine State* Hanging chads. Butterfly ballots. Unruly demonstrations across the country. A state capital occupied by the national press corps. For thirty-six excruciating days in late 2000, a nation held its breath while the seven justices of the Florida Supreme Court debated the outcome of the presidential election in Florida behind closed doors. The events that transpired within the justices' chambers their arguments, exhortations, and appeals to one another have remained a mystery . . . until now. Inside Bush v. Gore presents the unique, candid, and compelling perspective of the Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice who stood at the center of the storm. Charley Wells, a strong dissenting voice in the court's 4-3 decision that mandated a statewide manual recount, gives an unprecedented play-by-play of those tumultuous days. Not only is his legal analysis of Bush v. Gore at the state and federal levels invaluable, but he also offers an insiders view of judicial relationships, the frustrations of ambiguous election laws, the difficulties in separating the legalities from the politics, and the unsung yet critical role played by state court professionals. Ultimately Inside Bush v. Gore is a story about the transfer of power in a country that prides itself on the democratic process of electing its leaders and the ability of the

court system to justly and fairly resolve disputes. With the advantage of hindsight and the perspective gained by reading countless commentaries and studies about the decisions of both the Florida and the United States Supreme Courts, Wells highlights how the rule of law prevailed in the midst of one of the countrys most controversial elections in recent history. A volume in the series Florida Politics and Government, edited by David Colburn and Susan MacManus

About the Author Charley Wells, retired Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, where he served from 1994 to 2009, is now an attorney with the firm of GrayRobinson in Orlando.