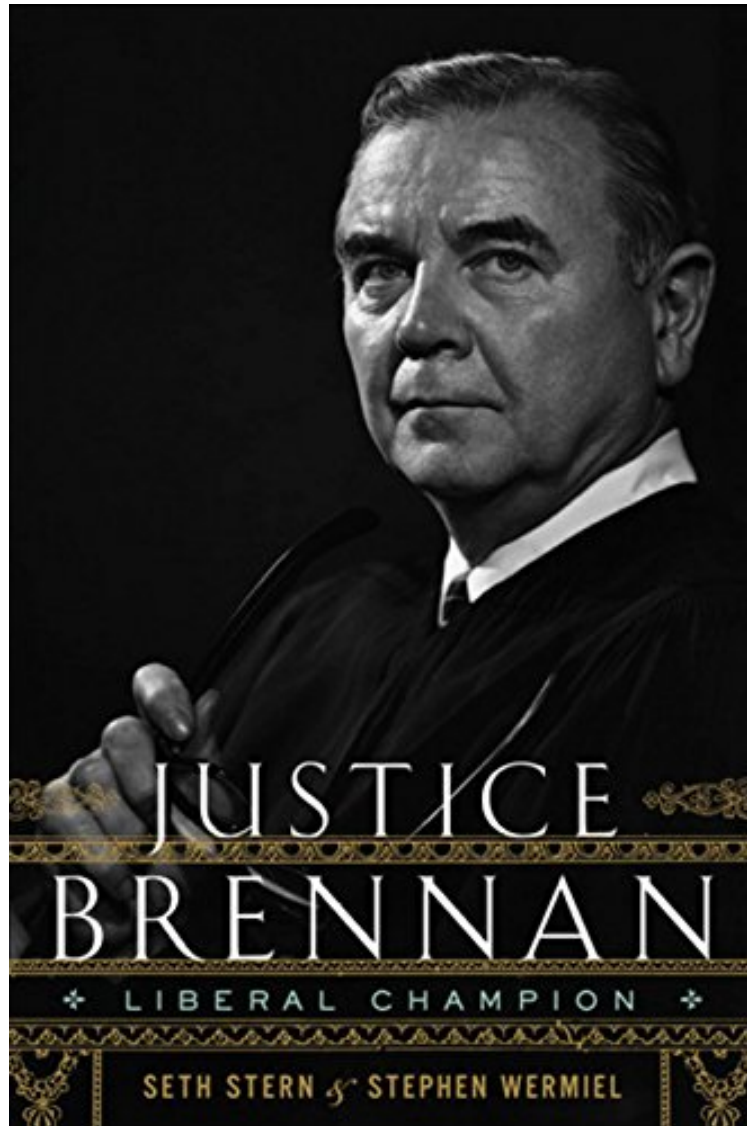


[Free read ebook] Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion

Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion

Seth Stern, Stephen Wermiel

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#465825 in Books 2010-10-04 2010-10-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.92 x 6.00l, 2.10 #File Name: 0547149255688 pages | File size: 73.Mb

Seth Stern, Stephen Wermiel : Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well researched bookBy JeanJustice Brennan provides the most comprehensive and well organized look at the liberal jurist to date. Too bad it was not released closer to his death in 1997. Wermiel had recorded 60 interviews with Brennan and had access to all his paper; apparently he had completed part of the book when Brennan died. In 2006 Wermiel brought in Seth stein who reorganized the vast amount of material and drafted most of the chapter. The authors attempted to reveal the complicated man beneath. Brennan hated

pornography but ruled it was permissible, and disapproved of abortion (he was a Catholic) but protected it. Brennan was intensely private about his private life this made it more difficult for the authors. In the decades since, Brennan has come to be seen as the epic strategist and deal-maker who coordinated many of the Warren Courts major decisions behind the scenes. Where the book truly soars is in the account of Brennans skills at getting to five: finding a way to bring together five fractious votes for a new principle or doctrine, or seeding some future principle or doctrine between the lines. The book reveals he was so attuned to the concerns and passions of his colleagues that he was able to draft opinions, or help them draft opinions in ways that would achieve five votes. Brennan, champion of womens rights, would not hire a female clerk until a great deal of pressure was applied. He only had two female clerks during his long service on the court. The book also reveals his difficulty in adjusting to the presence of a female colleague and the rocky relationship he had with Sandra Day OConnor during their nine terms together on the court. Twenty-nine years ago this coming September, Justice William J. Brennan engaged Attorney General Edwin Meese in the unprecedented public debate on constitutional interpretation. This debate is covered in detail in the book and makes it one of the most exciting sections of the book. Overall I greatly enjoyed reading this book. Justice Brennan is a most informative account of what the man achieved. The authors were successful in writing a scrupulously fair-minded book. I read this as an e-book via my kindle app on my Ipad. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. **Wermiel Captures the Brennan Era** By C. Brown I enjoyed reading the story of Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion by Stephen Wermiel and Seth Stern. I had the privilege of working with my friend and former neighbor Steve as he recorded two chapters of his book for RFBD. In a few weeks the book will be ready for the blind or dyslexic members of RFBD to hear at no cost. Wermiel researched and conducted interviews for 21 years. He then asked for Stern's help in drafting his enormous accumulation of source material and in interviewing Brennan's clerks and fellow justices again. The early chapters about Brennan's family make it clear that having a politician father taught the young man the skills he later employed as a justice of the Supreme Court; ie. the art of compromise and persuasion. As for the conversion of a conservative young man into the champion for liberal thought Brennan became, Wermiel refers to Justice Brennan's opinions as "evolving". That single word tells a great deal about the dynamic of the Supreme Court. Nine brilliant people of differing backgrounds and perceptions must somehow compromise to produce an opinion. The book is written with such clarity I was able to follow the cases the justices weighed and understand how they arrived at consensus or dissent. The biography of Brennan would be a good choice for study in High School Civics classes. It's especially useful because the Brennan biography was written to be widely accessible. Justice Brennan requested that his biography not be released until after his death, so Wermiel needed considerable stamina and courage to undertake such an important and long term project despite pressure on him to rush to print. Brennan clearly had his sights on the future of the USA. His opinion's effectiveness even after he retired is an indication of his progressive thinking. In addition, members of the family were reticent to speak candidly about Justice Brennan's family life until a few years after his death. His biography outlines the considerable stress Brennan dealt with day to day outside court including caring for his first wife and his own cancer. When I asked Wermiel if the landmark opinions brokered by Justice Brennan had an effect internationally his response was yes. Several other countries have adopted Brennan era decisions as a blueprint to make changes to their constitutions. A first rate book, one of the most interesting and scrupulous biographies I've ever read and . I feel it is worthy to be a candidate for a Pulitzer prize. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **the reality of how cases are decided in the federal system now is nothing like what you read in these biographies of judges and** By Earl Enjoyable read, regardless of your political persuasion. Sadly, the reality of how cases are decided in the federal system now is nothing like what you read in these biographies of judges and justices, especially those from a different era. Whether the judge or justice is liberal or conservative, decisions today appear to be based upon politics than upon the law and the facts. Americans have lost immeasurably since the days of Justice Brennan, but most Americans appear unaware.

A sweeping insider look at the life of William Brennan, champion of free speech and widely considered the most influential Supreme Court justice of the twentieth century Before his death, William Brennan granted Stephen Wermiel access to volumes of personal and court materials that are sealed to the public until 2017. These are what Jeffrey Toobin has called a coveted set of documents that includes Brennans case histories in which he recorded strategies behind all the major battles of the past half century, including *Roe v. Wade*, affirmative action, the death penalty, obscenity law, and the constitutional right to privacy as well as more personal documents that reveal some of Brennan's curious contradictions, like his refusal to hire female clerks even as he wrote groundbreaking womens rights decisions; his complex stance as a justice and a Catholic; and details on Brennans unprecedented working relationship with Chief Justice Earl Warren. Wermiel distills decades of valuable information into a seamless, riveting portrait of the man behind the Court's most liberal era.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Congressional Quarterly reporter Stern and Wermiel, who teaches constitutional law at American University, have produced what will likely be the definitive biography of Supreme Court Justice William Brennan (1906-1997), arguably the most influential liberal justice in history. During 34 years on the court, he was

instrumental in forming alliances with other justices resulting in majority opinions in such seminal cases as *Roe v. Wade* and *Baker v. Carr* (the one manone vote case that changed America's political landscape). The book's strength is Wermiel's access to Brennan's private case notes (which are closed to the public until 2017) and dozens of interviews with Brennan himself. The case notes provide a detailed and fascinating account of how the Supreme Court functioned during Brennan's long tenure (from 1956 to 1990) that easily outshines recent high-profile books purporting to break the Court's seal of secrecy. Nowhere will readers find a better explanation of how the mix of personality and political philosophy drove, and presumably still drives, the Court. Both legal scholars and general readers will be delighted with this well-written, superbly documented biography, which may make liberals nostalgic for Brennan's court. 16 pages of bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.