

(Download) Justice William J. Brennan, Jr: Freedom First

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*Roger Goldman, David Gallen, William J. Brennan*  
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#4368866 in Books 1994-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 6.25 x 1.50l, #File Name: 0786700696374 pages | File size: 79.Mb

**Roger Goldman, David Gallen, William J. Brennan : Justice William J. Brennan, Jr: Freedom First** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Justice William J. Brennan, Jr: Freedom First:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Judicial Career By James Gallen I must begin this review by admitting my biases. No, I am not related to David Gallen. Roger Goldman, however, did teach me constitutional law at St. Louis University during Justice Brennan's service on the Supreme Court. Justice Brennan was one of the longest serving justices on the Supreme Court, serving from his appointment by President Eisenhower in 1956 until his retirement in 1990. A member of the New Jersey Supreme Court before his nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court, Brennan became one of the court's consistently liberal justices during his 34 year tenure. This book is in no way a biography of William J. Brennan, Jr., although some biographical details do work themselves into the narrative. This book is an exposition of the judicial legacy of this very important justice of the twentieth century. This book is organized into three sections. The first section contains tributes to Brennan from others who have known him, primarily his former clerks. Section II contains a summary of the judicial positions which Brennan championed in his opinions. Section III contains a collection of Brennan's most important opinions. This book is a worthwhile read, whether you are a fan of Justice Brennan or whether you see him as an activist justice run amuck. His fans will revel in his judicial literature. Strict constructionists will find justification for criticism of his kind in the pages of this book. All will notice his shift from an intellectual mainstay of the liberal Warren Court, to a sometime dissenter and

sometime majority builder on the Burger Court to his role as a frequent dissenter on the Rehnquist Court, who still packed the punch necessary to bring an occasional majority to his thinking. When he failed to persuade the majority he left his dissents for liberals who he knew would follow later. Read and enjoy.

Exploring his thirty-four year position on the United States Supreme Court, a detailed account of his significant contribution to the modern law on freedom of speech and the press notes his positions on civil rights, education, and capital punishment.

From Publishers Weekly Like Thurgood Marshall: Justice for All, which St. Louis University School of Law professor Goldman coauthored, this is not a biography but a miscellany: 12 previously published essays, mainly by former law clerks, reflecting on the vastly influential Supreme Court justice who served from 1956 to 1990; a competent, medium-length piece elucidating Brennan's jurisprudence; and the texts of 15 major opinions, both dissents and concurrences, that Brennan authored. The collection provides worthy material for Court watchers: Appeals Court Judge Abner Mikva labels the justice not liberal but "Brennanist," meaning one who influences colleagues and builds coalitions; former clerks uniformly attest to his integrity and concern for others; Brennan's major opinions--in 1960s cases regarding freedom of the press, "one man one vote" reapportionment and due process regarding government benefits--emerged from the Warren Court's center. However, this book lacks substantive reflections by Brennan and a biographical report on the forces shaping his life. Gallen coauthored Remembering Malcolm. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Associate Justice William J. Brennan Jr. served on the U.S. Supreme Court for over 30 years, the third longest tenure in the history of the Court. During the turbulent days from the mid-1950s to the early 1990s, Justice Brennan clearly established himself as an ardent and persuasive champion of individual liberty. As a result, he became perhaps the greatest civil libertarian in the history of the Court and also one of the most influential (and often controversial) Americans of the post-World War II era. This is the thesis of Goldman and Gallen's analysis, in effect an encomium, of the life and times of Justice Brennan. The authors focus especially on Justice Brennan's jurisprudence, which stretched from the First Amendment to the Fourteenth, from obscenity in the late 1950s to gender discrimination and flag burning in the 1980s and 1990s. In addition, they include some moving tributes to Brennan upon his retirement, tributes that show the man inside the judicial black robe. This surely won't be the last word on Brennan, but to this point it's one of the best. Highly recommended for all libraries. Stephen Shaw, Northwest Nazarene Coll., Nampa, Id. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Justice Brennan's enduring Supreme Court legacy will be his strengthening of Americans' civil rights and liberties. Goldman and Gallen focus on his most prominent judgments and also show his rarely manifested personal qualities. Their book is divided into three sections. In the first, consisting of reflections on Brennan, two of Brennan's most prominent colleagues--Justices Marshall and White--pay tribute, as do other judges and some journalists, including Nat Hentoff, whose Playboy interview of Brennan is especially revealing and moving. The Goldman and Gallen essay that makes up the book's second part clearly describes how Brennan opinions enhanced particular freedoms; for example, to cite just two, his majority opinion in *New York Times v. Sullivan*, which has been called "perhaps the most important free speech opinion ever written," and the majority opinion in *Craig v. Boren*, which struck down gender discrimination. The third and longest part contains the actual texts of Brennan's most influential arguments, those mentioned above and 10 others. A fitting celebration of the judge's work. Aaron Cohen