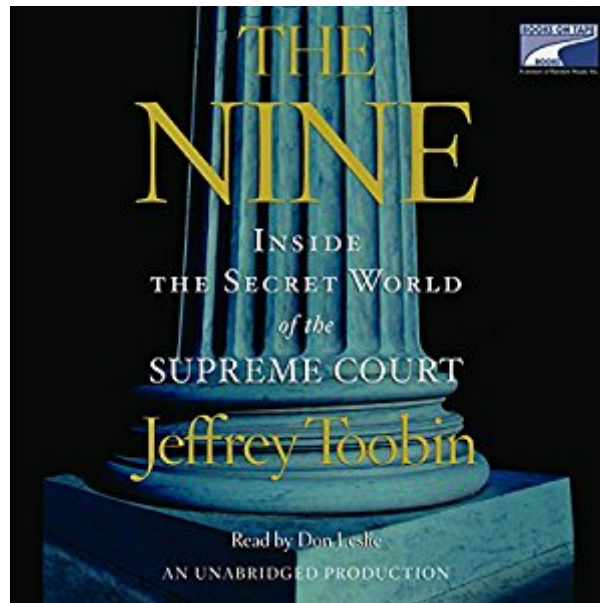


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The Nine: Inside The Secret World Of The Supreme Court



Synopsis

Bestselling author Jeffrey Toobin takes you into the chambers of the most important and secret legal body in our country, the Supreme Court, and reveals the complex dynamic among the nine people who decide the law of the land. Just in time for the 2008 presidential election where the future of the Court will be at stake Toobin reveals an institution at a moment of transition, when decades of conservative disgust with the Court have finally produced a conservative majority, with major changes in store on such issues as abortion, civil rights, presidential power, and church-state relations. Based on exclusive interviews with justices themselves, *The Nine* tells the story of the Court through personalities from Anthony Kennedy's overwhelming sense of self-importance to Clarence Thomas's well-tended grievances against his critics to David Souter's odd nineteenth-century lifestyle. There is also, for the first time, the full behind-the-scenes story of *Bush v. Gore* and Sandra Day O'Connor's fateful breach with George W. Bush, the president she helped place in office. *The Nine* is the book bestselling author Jeffrey Toobin was born to write. A CNN senior legal analyst and *New Yorker* staff writer, no one is more superbly qualified to profile the nine justices. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There is no doubt that Toobin has a gift for writing history with the average reader in mind. *The Nine* is both entertaining and educational, recounting the history of the Burger, Rehnquist and Roberts

Courts. The book focuses separately on the political decisions and drama that lead to the composition of the Court, and the landmark cases of interest to the general public. Most striking is the recounting of "inside information" happening within the Justices' chambers during these historic moments. This book was not written for appellate lawyers, and does not dwell on little-known cases with (arguably) more legal importance than *Roe v. Wade* etc. But Toobin's aim is not to recant important case law, but to draw focus to the human actors and the way in which they made decisions affecting millions of Americans. He achieves this, and gives readers a privileged view into the most secretive branch of the US government. I do wish that Toobin had taken a more tempered approach to looking at the Supreme Court. When only focusing on contentious cases, one can walk away with a very jaded view of the good work the Justices do. To wit, a major element of the book is a narrative of a seedy conservative plot to take over the Court. While the Court has no doubt drifted right, Toobin's panic can seep through in off putting ways. Unfortunately, this is largely to do with the historical moment Toobin focuses on which is exclusively after the Warren Court. A reader interested in the politics of the Court would be wise to expand their inquiries to other sources, and other periods of Court history, and take Toobin's conclusions with a grain of salt.

Excellent work, made the complex workings of our highest court extremely understandable, especially in light of today's issues and the vacant seat waiting to be filled. Mr. Tobin I thank you!

Five

Stars

Intelligently written discussion of the Supreme Court & the Nine Justices that comprise it. It provides insight into the decision making process as well, by elaborating with well-written prose on the personalities of the Nine Justices, their backgrounds, & exactly what they bring to the judging process. It also provided some perspective on the SELECTION PROCESS involved in appointing Justices to the Supreme Court. That said, there has been a "narrowing of the perspective" of judging applied by the Justices as the result of an intentional "weighting" of the Court with Justices who possess VERY conservative agendas. The book identifies which Justices possess such an agenda. It does make sense, after reading this well-written book, that the Justices should still be subject to the Laws of the Land--when violation have occurred. Since appointments are for "Life", it would seem a reasonable assumption that all the Justices possess an "open mind", without any given agenda other than providing Justice through interpretive law measures.

A very readable account not only of the decisions made by the members of the Supreme Court during the period of time the book covers, but also into the thinking, reasoning and beliefs of individual judges. For me, a page-turner I couldn't put down. The outcomes of some of their most controversial cases was, for me, still controversial. The 'method' used to choose new judges seemed political much of the time.

Jeffrey Toobin has written an excellent book which is both informative and entertaining. *THE NINE* compares favorably with Bob Woodward's *THE BRETHREN* (Inside the Supreme Court) which I thought was marvelous. Toobin's book begins during the Reagan administration with the appointment of Anthony Scalia and ends with the court term 2006-2007 with Robert's first year, O'Connor's departure, and Alito's ascension, cementing the conservative era. Toobin details nicely the absurd tragedy of *Bush v. Gore* which has striped the court of credibility - perhaps for decades. Most interestingly Toobin relates the evolution of Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy - both fascinating stories. You can educate yourself about the modern history of the court by reading *The Brethren* and then *The Nine* which would cover the court history from the mid-60s with only a ten-year gap between 1975 and 1985. Unfortunately, Toobin's book ends before the Court's tragic and vapid decision in the *Citizens United* case, which in my opinion may do more damage to the country than any ruling since the 1930s. This is a very good book.

Toobin provides an engaging, informative, and insightful recounting of the conservative takeover of the Supreme Court since Reagan. His analysis shatters the illusion of the court as an enlightened and objective body that discerns truth, and underscores the importance of the presidential elections in determining how the court will mete out justice. Both sobering and inspiring, the book is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand how the court works and its relevance to our daily lives.

Thanks Jeffery Toobin! This was 1 of 2 books recommended by a present day librarian at the Supreme Court. That says it all. Very readable.

Fascinating insight to the USA Supreme Court. Toobin writes very well and makes what could be boring interesting, with a real insight into the make up of the judges!!

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