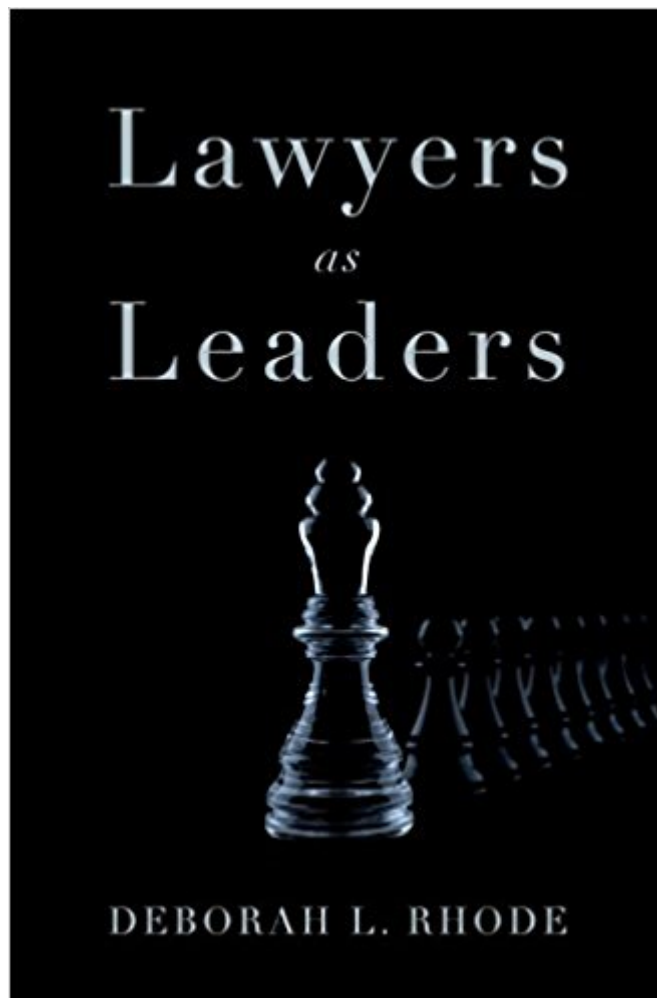


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Lawyers As Leaders



Synopsis

No occupation in America supplies a greater proportion of leaders than the legal profession, yet it has done little to prepare them for this role. Lawyers sit at the helm of a vast array of powerful law firms, businesses, governmental, and nonprofit organizations. Two of the last three presidents have been lawyers. And yet almost no occupation rouses greater public distrust. This paradox raises two important questions: Why do we look to lawyers to lead, and why do so many of them prove to be so ill-prepared for that role? In *Lawyers as Leaders*, eminent law professor Deborah Rhode not only answers these questions but provides an invaluable overview for attorneys who occupy or aspire to leadership positions in public and private practice settings. Drawing on a broad range of interdisciplinary research, biographical profiles, and empirical studies, she covers everything from decision making, conflict management, and communication to ethics and diversity in leadership, and what lawyers can do to advance both their professional development and the public interest. Rhode contends that the legal profession attracts many people with the ambition and analytic capabilities to be leaders but often fails to develop other qualities that are essential to their effectiveness. Successful lawyers need to be confident, competitive, and even combative, but possessing such qualities often results in a lack of interpersonal sensitivity, emotional intelligence, and resilience—the "soft skills" that both legal education and the reward structure of legal practice consistently undervalue. The most successful leaders, Rhode argues, are those who can see past their own ambitions and retain a capacity for critical reflection on their performance. The first serious work on leadership and law, *Lawyers as Leaders* will prove essential to law students, law faculty, and lawyers holding or seeking governance positions.

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"While the findings of social science can often seem cold and lifeless on the page, Professor Rhode manages to present them vividly: in every paragraph, in nearly every sentence, she offers telling examples or memorable quotations coloring the portrait of the successful leader and the failed one, too." --Law and Politics Book Review "Rhode's voice is eloquent, authoritative, balanced, and infused with a dedication to community service. Throughout *Lawyers as Leaders*, Rhode's extensive experience is evident in the wisdom of her comments." -James G. Durham, Deputy Director, Maryland State Law Library, *Law Library Journal*

Deborah Rhode is the Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law at Stanford Law School. Her books include *The Beauty Bias*: (OUP 2011), *Access to Justice* (OUP 2005), and *In the Interests of Justice: Reforming the Legal Profession* (OUP 2003).

Excellent source to help untangle the dynamics of leadership in the legal profession.

Don't waste your time. Superficial nonsense packed with cliches. No real discernible theme or common elements. No depth whatsoever.

I am teaching a new leadership class in law school. All of professor Rhode's work has been invaluable, and this will become our class text for next fall.

Useless book filled with platitudes, panaceas, and guru-talk. It's essentially meaningless, like other "self-help" leadership books. Save your money and get a good biography about Teddy Roosevelt, Patton or Bill Gates.

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