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Edward Bennett Williams was one of the most fascinating and famous trial attorneys of his time. However, as Evan Thomas’ The Man to See amply illustrates, the term “trial attorney” is too simplistic to describe what Williams was able to accomplish during his life. In an age of specialization, Williams was a legal Renaissance man. He handled civil, as well as criminal, cases, skillfully executed corporate takeovers and argued in front of the United States Supreme Court on several occasions. In addition, Williams eventually owned the Baltimore Orioles and was co-owner of the Washington Redskins. After Williams’ death in 1988, United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall appropriately described him as “a great lawyer, a great American, a great man.”

Williams was a pure lawyer who truly believed that everyone was entitled to representation. Throughout his forty-four year career, Williams counseled numerous influential, famous and infamous members of society. President Gerald Ford sought his advice on protecting the nation security establishment, which had come under siege after Watergate. Ben Bradlee and The Washington Post turned to Williams during Watergate and the publication of The Pentagon Papers. Williams clients included Senator Joe McCarthy, mafia dons Frank Costello and Sam Giancana, Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa, as well as Hugh Hefner, Michael Milken and Frank Sinatra. When asked (by Eunice Shriver) how he could defend such evil men, Williams replied “I defend my clients from legal guilt. Moral judgments, I leave to the majestic vengeance of God.”

Williams was a deeply religious man. A devout Catholic, who was educated by the Jesuits at the College of Holy Cross and Georgetown Law School, Williams attended mass 365 days a year. He was also a dedicated family man, who married an associate at his law firm after his first wife died, and had a
total of seven children. In his public life, Williams counted among his closest friends the rich and famous (including Ben Bradlee, Art Buchwald and Joe DiMaggio) and was on the Washington A-list, attending parties with the Who’s Who of government and power.

*The Man to See* is an authorized biography. The author, Evan Thomas, interviewed those closest to Williams and had access to Williams’ papers. The result is a thoroughly engaging book. Thomas does an excellent job of presenting the public and private Edward Bennett Williams, who, with all of his complexities and dichotomies, is regarded as one of the best lawyers to ever set foot in a courtroom.


America’s children have become the poorest segment of society. One out of every five children are poor and have no health insurance. There is an obvious need for child advocates who can represent these children, since they are often unable to fend for themselves. *Stepping Stones* is a collection of case studies which attempt to answer the question: What kinds of child advocacy works best and under what circumstances? The book was produced by the Foundation of Child Development Internal Project to Increase the Effectiveness of Child Advocacy and presents five victorious child advocacy case studies.

The case studies cover a variety of types of advocacy. The first chapter tells the story of a job training program in Massachusetts that placed over 45,000 welfare recipients in jobs and created over 11,000 new child care slots. The second chapter analyzes a class action lawsuit brought in North Carolina against the state which resulted in the creation of a new community-based system of services for violent, mentally disturbed adolescents. In the third chapter, the case study is of how parents of disabled children in Richmond, California were able to integrate their children into the educational mainstream. The fourth case study assesses a Texas program that allowed poor women and children to receive health care, and the final chapter takes a look at the advocacy strategies that went behind the successful effort to revolutionize the Arkansas Juvenile Court system in 1987.
The studies are diverse and the advocates use a variety of strategies to achieve their goals: legislation, litigation, the media and relationships between advocates and government officials. The case studies serve as a representation of the many efforts being made throughout the United States by advocates on behalf of children. Thus, the purpose of the book is to analyze and present some of the most successful efforts, so that other advocates may benefit from these experiences.


*Sports Law* was written as part of NOLPE's monograph series. The author, Linda A. Sharp, has written and taught extensively in the area of sports law. The monograph covers three primary areas of concern for those who deal with sports law matters in public school or collegiate settings: tort issues, contractual matters and constitutional law principles as applied to sports settings.

The tort law section focuses on negligence issues and states that the majority of litigation in this area arises in three areas: (1) supervision, (2) conduct of the activity, and (3) environmental conditions — equipment and facilities. The author suggests that schools should develop risk management programs and adopt a preventive mentality toward negligence concerns. The second section examines the issues that surround contracts for sports administrators which the author believes are a daily part of the administrators lives and are usually overlooked. The author uses a hypothetical case study to address six critical areas: (1) lease agreements, (2) agreements with concessionaires and other vendors, (3) the athletic grant-in-aid, (4) contracts with officials and team physicians, and (5) employment contracts. The final section addresses constitutional law issues in sports law. The areas covered are freedom of speech and religion, drug testing, due process concerns and the equality of programs/sex discrimination issues.

Although the monograph is relatively short, the author has managed to cover a wide variety of sports law topics. The author, herself, admits that she has simply given an overview of each area and that her references are selective not comprehensive. However, this work is a great starting place for a novice
in sports law and could be used as a reference for school administrators and lawyers.


*Successful Techniques for Civil Trials* was originally published in 1983. It has been updated periodically, the most recent supplement being added in 1990. The book is a very good source of general knowledge regarding all aspects of civil trials. The eight chapters follow the progression of a trial from motions in limine to the final argument.

There are several helpful methods and techniques offered in the book. The chapter on motions in limine contains an analysis of how the motions are used in each of the fifty states. In the chapter two, there is a well organized, exhaustive list of trial objections. The most commonly used objections are analyzed and case law regarding each objection is cited. In addition to this handy, quick, reference list, this chapter has a list of do's and don'ts regarding objections.

Throughout the book, Carlson uses examples to illustrate the different aspects of the trial. Series of questions and answers are used to exemplify direct and cross examination, the technique for submitting documents into evidence and to voice objections. In addition, copies of typical forms for various motions are provided and some of the Federal Rules of Evidence are reprinted.

In general, the book focuses on the federal procedures and could be extremely useful to a new attorney. It offers practical knowledge on how to proceed through every step of the trial and is a terrific reference source for information on evidentiary procedures.