



CSU  
College of Law Library

---

1970

## Book Review

Harvey S. Yasinow

Follow this and additional works at: <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstlrev>



Part of the [Legal Profession Commons](#)

**How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!**

---

### Recommended Citation

Harvey S. Yasinow, *Book Review*, 19 Clev. St. L. Rev. 636 (1970)

available at <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstlrev/vol19/iss3/23>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cleveland State Law Review by an authorized editor of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact [library.es@csuohio.edu](mailto:library.es@csuohio.edu).

## Book Reviews

Reviewed by Harvey S. Yasinow\*

WHAT LAWYERS REALLY DO: SIX LAWYERS TALK ABOUT THEIR LIFE AND WORK, by Bernard Asbell. Peter H. Wyden, Inc., New York (1970), 114 pp.

Imagine yourself in a room with six lawyers, all young, two of them women, one of the men black. To each in turn you propose questions about his particular facet of the practice of law—the how, the why—and let him ramble on a bit. This, in essence, is what Bernard Asbell has done in his new book, *What Lawyers Really Do*.

It is an eminently readable book, or perhaps a better word is “listenable,” for one listens to conversation, one rarely reads it. And as with most conversations, these tend not to be neat and well organized—but then neither is life nor law.

In his short preface to the book, Mr. Asbell writes, “Whatever criticisms may be leveled at this book, no one will be able to accuse it of consistency. The people . . . do not speak in one voice.” But there is a very solid consistency that underlies the entire volume, for it might as easily have been titled “What Very Young Lawyers Really Do Who Live and Practice Within Shouting Distance of the Atlantic Ocean from Philadelphia North.” Their educational backgrounds are similarly limited, all having graduated from East Coast law schools, two of the six from Yale. Three others received their legal training in New York City. Only one ventured out of the northeast, and then just a bit southeast, to Howard. Four of the six practice in New York City or its environs, and even the book’s introduction is written by the dean of a law school located there.

However, this lack of breadth of background and experience is not fatal to the aim of the book. The Career-Maker series, of which this is the first book, attempts to show what actually happens on the job, what motivations have affected the choice of career at the outset, and the specific area of that career now engaged in, and why. This it has done. The series is directed toward those who have yet to make a choice of a life’s work, hopefully to provide some guidance toward a sound selection.

All those interviewed, men and women alike, appear forthright in their views and candid in their remarks, though these occasionally take on the air of a short review of tort, contract, or corporation law—as the case may have been. Most show an acute awareness that law involves

---

\* B.A., Case Western Reserve Univ.; Fourth-year student at Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; Teacher at Manpower Training Center, Cleveland Board of Education.

the personal interaction of people, which creates people problems that cry for solution. They have chosen the practice of law as their vehicle to aid in this effort. Some are extremely active in their home communities; most have a tie to the legal profession through others in their families. None are bored in the least by what they do.

Both women are engaged in criminal law practice, one as an Assistant District Attorney, the other as a defense counsel. The men do present a variety of practices—though again in the context of their Eastern locale: general practice, Wall Street firm, house counsel for an industrial giant, former director of a Legal Services office established under the poverty program.

*What Lawyers Really Do* may accomplish what the author set out to do, but I wish someone had told him that law is also practiced in the other 47 states, most of which lie west of the Hudson.

*Reviewed by Thomas Parker Hayes\**

**EXAMINING THE MEDICAL EXPERT: LECTURES AND TRIAL DEMONSTRATIONS**, Edited by Albert G. Sugarman, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan (1969) 330 pp.

In an attempt to improve the understanding and the utilization of medical testimony at trial, the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan, made this topic the subject of its Nineteenth Annual Advocacy Institute. This book is a transcript of the lectures, exhibits, demonstrations and panel discussions presented at the Institute.

Professor William Curran, a Lecturer in Legal Medicine at Harvard Law School, one of the contributors to the book, stated that it has been estimated that sixty to eighty per cent of all trial level cases involve medical testimony. Thus, the subject matter of this book should be of vital interest to every trial attorney.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part consists of lectures given by doctors and lawyers who explained the problems of presenting the testimony of a psychiatrist, a pharmacologist, a physical medicine specialist, a psychologist, and a pathologist. The lectures are organized so as to give the reader the opportunity to compare and contrast the opinions of the doctors with those of the lawyers and, in each case, learn how to obtain the maximum benefit from his medical expert, and to minimize the effect of the opposition's expert.

The second part of the book deals with facts and exhibits of the sample malpractice case presented at the Institute. It pictures the

---

\* B.A., Denison Univ.; D. C., Palmer College of Chiropractic; Third-year student at Cleveland State University, Cleveland Marshall College of Law.