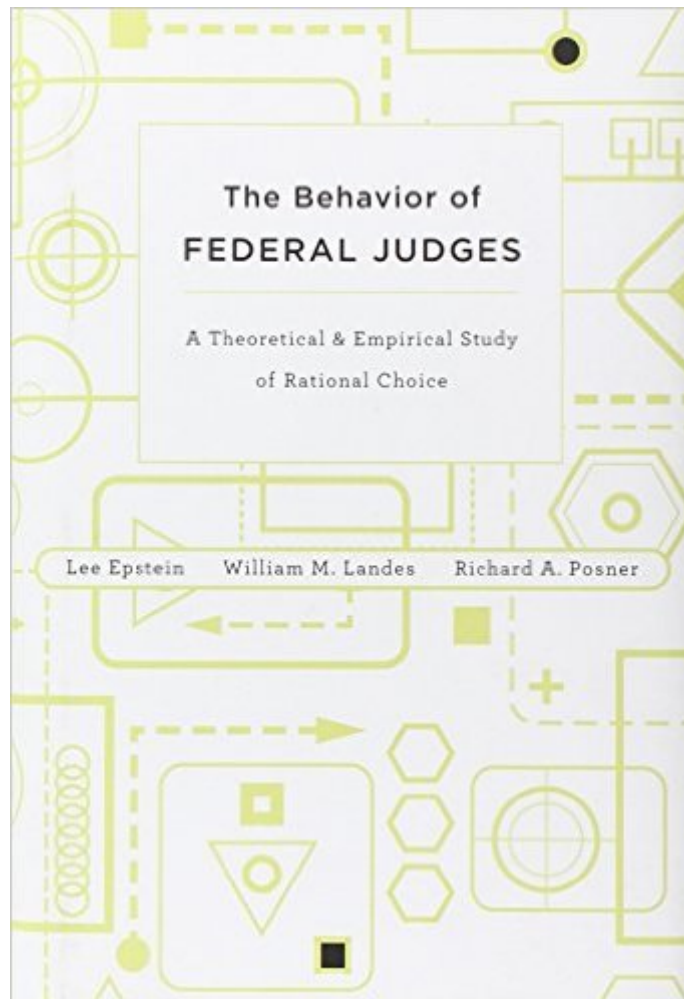


The book was found

The Behavior Of Federal Judges: A Theoretical And Empirical Study Of Rational Choice



Synopsis

Judges play a central role in the American legal system, but their behavior as decision-makers is not well understood, even among themselves. The system permits judges to be quite secretive (and most of them are), so indirect methods are required to make sense of their behavior. Here, a political scientist, an economist, and a judge work together to construct a unified theory of judicial decision-making. Using statistical methods to test hypotheses, they dispel the mystery of how judicial decisions in district courts, circuit courts, and the Supreme Court are made. The authors derive their hypotheses from a labor-market model, which allows them to consider judges as they would any other economic actors: as self-interested individuals motivated by both the pecuniary and non-pecuniary aspects of their work. In the authors' view, this model describes judicial behavior better than either the traditional "legalist" theory, which sees judges as automatons who mechanically apply the law to the facts, or the current dominant theory in political science, which exaggerates the ideological component in judicial behavior. Ideology does figure into decision-making at all levels of the federal judiciary, the authors find, but its influence is not uniform. It diminishes as one moves down the judicial hierarchy from the Supreme Court to the courts of appeals to the district courts. As *The Behavior of Federal Judges* demonstrates, the good news is that ideology does not extinguish the influence of other components in judicial decision-making. Federal judges are not just robots or politicians in robes.

Book Information

Hardcover: 440 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press (January 7, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674049896

ISBN-13: 978-0674049895

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.5 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #731,258 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in [Books > Law > Legal Theory & Systems > Judicial System](#) #266 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > Judicial Branch](#) #390 in [Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Courts](#)

Customer Reviews

Overall a very accessible and though-provoking book, it is held back somewhat by an apparent vendetta against Judge Edwards and some questionable conclusions. In particular the book indicates that judges lack self-understanding, and at times can take an extremely patronizing tone towards them. Overall though a worthwhile read, and the book's ability to quantify and present data is laudable.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Behavior of Federal Judges: A Theoretical and Empirical Study of Rational Choice Doing News Framing Analysis: Empirical and Theoretical Perspectives Philosophical And Theoretical Perspectives For Advanced Nursing Practice (Cody, Philosophical and Theoretical Perspectives for Advances Nursing Practice) The Nature of Theoretical Thinking in Nursing: Third Edition (Kim, The Nature of Theoretical Thinking in Nursing) Quantum Mechanics: The Theoretical Minimum (Theoretical Minimum, The) Federal Judges Revealed Mastering Multiple Choice for Federal Civil Procedure MBE Bar Prep and 1L Exam Pre (Career Guides) Mastering Multiple Choice for Federal Civil Procedure MBE Bar Prep and 1L Exam Prep (Career Guides) BUNDLE: Garrett: Brain & Behavior, 4E + Garrett: Study Guide to Accompany Bob Garrett's Brain & Behavior: An Introduction to Biological Psychology, 4E The Federal Courts and The Federal System (University Casebook Series) 2015 Federal Circuit Yearbook: Patent Law Developments in the Federal Circuit Writing Empirical Research Reports: A Basic Guide for Students of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Empirical Legal Research: A Guidance Book for Lawyers, Legislators and Regulators Emotion and Culture: Empirical Studies of Mutual Influence Principles and Practice of Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Second Edition: An Empirical Approach An Introduction to Empirical Legal Research Empirical Methods in Law (Casebook Series) Oral Arguments Before the Supreme Court: An Empirical Approach (American Psychology-Law Society Series) Proposing Empirical Research: A Guide to the Fundamentals Bonding and the Case for Permanence: Preventing mental illness, crime, and homelessness among children in foster care and adoption. A guide for attorneys, judges, therapists and child welfare.

[Dmca](#)