

## Summer Book Recommendations

*John Q. Barrett\**

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As you build your summer (and lifetime) pile of important and enjoyable books to own and to read, four new ones to consider very seriously are:

- THE YALE BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN LAW (Yale University Press). This book, planned and edited by historian Roger K. Newman (biographer of Justice Hugo L. Black), assembles in one volume succinct and lively entries, including many that are particularly inspired pairings of author and subject, on over 700 men and women of significant and lasting influence in American law. (My contributions are entries on A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., Robert H. Jackson and Lawrence E. Walsh.);
- LUCAS A. POWE, JR., THE SUPREME COURT & THE AMERICAN ELITE, 1789-2008 (Harvard University Press). In this book, Professor Powe, a professor of law and government at the University of Texas (and, some years ago, a law clerk to Justice William O. Douglas), offers an expert's synthesis on, and an argument regarding, the history of the Supreme Court of the United States. (Powe writes, in passing, that "surprisingly there is still no true biography of Robert Jackson...." Noted.);

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For a selected archive of Jackson List posts, see my homepage at [www.law.stjohns.edu](http://www.law.stjohns.edu). To subscribe to the Jackson List, which does not display recipient identities or distribute their email addresses, send a note to [barrettj@stjohns.edu](mailto:barrettj@stjohns.edu).

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- HAROLD H. BRUFF, *BAD ADVICE: BUSH'S LAWYERS IN THE WAR ON TERROR* (University Press of Kansas). Professor Bruff, a law professor at the University of Colorado and a former U.S. Department of Justice attorney, surveys lawyers' advice to presidents in historical and recent contexts. (Bruff considers some of the 1930s-19 legal advice that was provided by, and then he dedicates this book to the memory of, Robert H. Jackson.); and
  
- CLIFF SLOAN & DAVID MCKEAN, *THE GREAT DECISION: JEFFERSON, ADAMS, MARSHALL AND THE BATTLE FOR THE SUPREME COURT* (PublicAffairs Books). This book, by a former Supreme Court law clerk, former publisher, practicing lawyer and Supreme Court litigator (Sloan) and a senior Congressional aide and experienced scholar of Washington and government (McKean), considers *Marbury v. Madison* in the context of its times and players, portrayed vividly. (The Jackson hooks? None, except that he descended from Jeffersonian Democrats, wrote about *Marbury*, moved to Virginia, spoke about and revered Marshall, and, in office, wrestled with the legitimacy and proper uses of judicial power to review the constitutionality of legislation.)