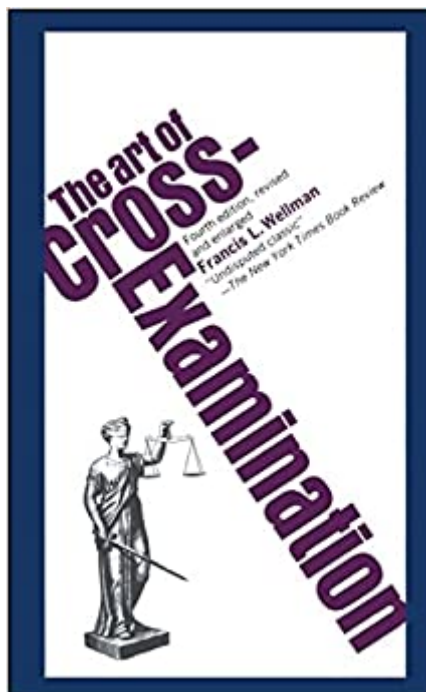


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The Art Of Cross-Examination



Synopsis

Synopsis coming soon.....

Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 480 pages

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Customer Reviews

For the Law Student, buy this book. For the practicing Attorney, buy this book. It is money well invested! Francis Wellman's "The Art of Cross Examination" is the undisputed classic text on cross. As Wellman points out on page 24, "There is no short cut, no royal road to proficiency, in the art of advocacy." No truer statement has ever been put to paper. I first came across this paperback in Law School during mock trials, and have come to rely upon it many, many times especially at preliminary hearings. Although dated (first edition 1903), the author quotes extensively from memorable cases and utilizes them to illustrate both the manner and matter of cross-examination. Wellman covers the topics of handling perjured witness and the expert, and the importance of sequence and the importance of paying attention to the nature of the psychology of the witness. The aspect of Wellman showing how, and knowing when, to illicit information from the witness is why this book has become famous. Wellman uses many famous (at the time) cases that are very humorous, and also timeless (marital discord in 1903 is marital discord in 2004, for example). This is a very well written book and I promise that useful "nuggets" of information will be found. Well done! Five stars.

Got this book for a trial practice class in law school. It was not required reading, but recommended by my teacher (a top trial attorney with several decades of experience). It's awesome. Wellman goes

through both the theory and practical wisdom of cross-examination, giving stories and examples to drive the point home. It's quite comprehensive, and will certainly make you a better cross-examiner (or just help you get a good grade in your trial class).

Bought for law student neighbor as I could NOT find my decades old copy. He LOVES it and scanned it quickly finding lots of help for a trial, on 3-27-15 (tomorrow). I remember reading and enjoying my copy decades ago even though I am not a lawyer. Thanks for coming through, again,
CWB

This is a very insightful book written in delightfully old-fashioned language. As a lawyer myself I think of its lessons in meetings with the other side in negotiations or in preparations for the same. The book loses one star, however, in its organization. Nothing in the organization of the book carries me forward in reading it. There's no narrative. It's just one anecdote after another.

Enjoyed

Excellent

This book contains many details on the art of cross-examination of a witness. It covers the manner of the examination, perjured testimony, the sequence of examination, experts, silent cross-examination, dangers and comments on uses and misuses of the process. This book would be very helpful to law students, trial lawyers, pro-se litigants and a whole host of constituencies in the legal profession and professions on the periphery. Here is an important quotation from the work: "If all witnesses had the honesty and intelligence to come forward and scrupulously follow the letter as well as the spirit of the oath "to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," and if all advocates on either side had the necessary experience, combined with honesty and intelligence, and were similarly sworn to develop the whole truth and nothing but the truth, of course there would be no occasion for cross-examination, and the occupation of the cross-examiner would be gone. But as yet no substitute has ever been found for cross-examination as a means of separating the truth from falsehood, and of reducing exaggerated statements to their true dimensions."

A fascinating read although at times a bit dry. Practical and theoretical advice for the advocate of law whether practicing in the US or UK. Although the author practiced law in the early 20th century,

his description of the art of cross-examination, could in fact be reflective of a court room of today. Students of law: this is a book to read, considered and kept for reference.

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