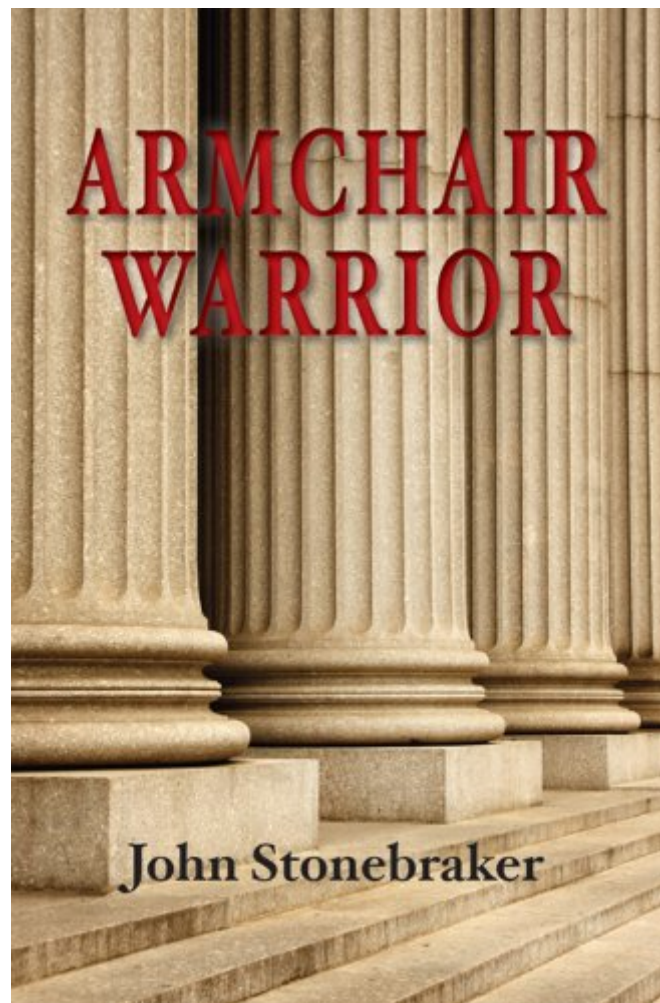




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Armchair Warrior: How A Country Lawyer Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Law



Synopsis

You're fresh out of law school. You've joined a little father-son firm because the old bull can teach you how to try cases. His son can't. Before you try a single case, the crusty, pipe smoking, hard drinking mentor-who-never-was has a near-fatal heart attack. With no one to turn to, a mountain of lawsuits lands on your desk. Thus began John Stonebraker's thirty years of civil trial practice. Using an eclectic selection of cases, Stonebraker weaves surprise and suspense with the inside baseball of civil trial work from the perspective of both plaintiffs and defendants. Along the way he considers lawyering, judging, expert witnesses and other controversial subjects in a cold, clear light as no other volume does. Some biases will be shattered and others reinforced, but the reader interested in the law and lawyers will not fail to learn much in every chapter.

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Customer Reviews

Lawyers love to tell war stories. I'm a retired lawyer myself, although my lawyer days were spent in big firms in large cities or in the Law Department of a Fortune 50 company. Even in those places we

have war stories to tell. Stonebraker tried cases before juries in small and medium sized towns and cities over a good chunk of one Midwest state. The stories are good--and the wisdom they impart about how to try a case is valuable. That wisdom is transferrable to many other occupations--because what a good trial lawyer is engaged in is selling. He or she is selling his or her version of the events to the jury. As my General Counsel in that Fortune 50 company said, a good trial lawyer can make a jury believe that horse manure tastes like vanilla ice cream. And in fact, they'll eat it up with a spoon. Stonebraker was apparently a good trial lawyer.

I couldn't put this book down. It is an inside view of some of the cases Stonebraker worked on. He writes with humor, passion, and gives a good insight of what a lawyer experiences trying a case. The reader learns about the law, along with the worries and problems that can occur for the lawyer in upholding the law. I have bought copies to give as hostess gifts! It is well written and an excellent read.

Entertaining and informative! Stonebraker writes with humor, passion and knowledge. Along with the memorable and interesting cases from his many years as a lawyer, he teaches readers about how the world of the Law works. New lawyers can save time and headaches by learning from Stonebraker's insights, experiences and mistakes - yes, he even includes stories of when he failed to win. An overall entertaining and informative read for everyone.

I've recently put down the novel and picked up biographies and true-life. More interesting and satisfying. Anyway, this book is both, and I loved it. I learned some things, and as a layman I was entertained and had the rare opportunity of discovering what the practice of law is really like (I have since discarded the TV version of what it's like). It's worth reading if for nothing more than the poignant ending, which every parent will appreciate. Good read, as they say.

The book is a compilation of many "mini"-stories which are interesting, and show the merit of the plaintiff's and defendants' cases, depending on which side Mr. Stonebraker was representing. I give him high marks for trying so many cases. He must have worked incredibly hard during his career. Fortunately, his litigation and trial stories fill most of the book. When he discusses the law, the book tends to bog down. His notion of "a lot of money" is a bit outdated but overall it was an enjoyable read.

I originally bought this book because the author has the same name as my father, and Stonebraker was spelled exactly the same way. I thought there might be a family connection. I was pleasantly surprised to read this book and I especially LOVED the letter to his sons. Very poignant, heartfelt, and hopeful. Thanks John Stonebraker. Enjoy the Moments

This book is well written, interesting and YES, I really did learn a thing or two about the world of legal entanglement. Small town lawyering may seem to be boring to the uninitiated but the author's tales and experiences have exposed that myth for sure. The reader will enjoy the dialogue, the witness interchanges, depositions and insight into what makes a legal system percolate.

I wish I had this guy for my lawyer. If he was a doctor I'd wish him for my doctor. If he was a politician I would especially wish him for my politician! One would hope all young men and women would enter law with the goal of being a "John Stonebraker" - hopeful enough to take us safely through the next generation. John White

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