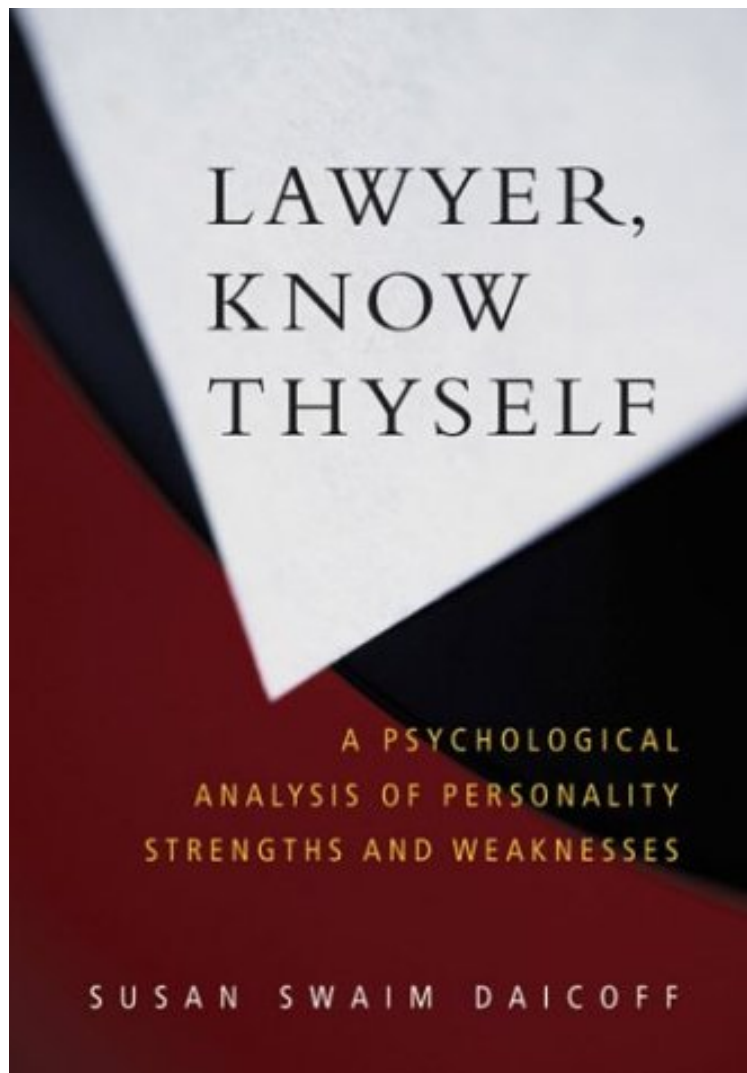


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Lawyer, Know Thyself: A Psychological Analysis of Personality Strengths and Weaknesses (Law and Public Policy)

Susan Swaim Daicoff

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Susan Swaim Daicoff : Lawyer, Know Thyself: A Psychological Analysis of Personality Strengths and Weaknesses (Law and Public Policy) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lawyer, Know Thyself: A Psychological Analysis of Personality Strengths and Weaknesses (Law and Public Policy):

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Is it time for a revolution in the legal profession? By A Customer Professor Daicoff has written an important and pivotal book in "Lawyer. Know Thyself." This book really

has two audiences, the legal profession and the rest of us. She has managed to present a very scholarly work in a manner that the lay can easily understand and appreciate. She identifies three critical themes of the American legal system as is presently practiced, i. e. low level of integrity of lawyers and judges, low public opinion of the profession, and low level of job satisfaction. She has presented this work with a very human and distressing vignette of a fictional lawyer in the preface, a very readable body of the book (peppered with lawyer jokes), and voluminous notes at the end of each chapter. These notes are conveniently left out of the main text and allow one to read through without interruption. Yet, the notes reveal not only the depth of the research, which is profound, but also therein is a second book for the educators and scholars. The notes commonly include Professor Daicoff's comments and opinions of the cited work. There is a final chapter suggesting a "cure" for this malady. She suggests a Comprehensive Law Movement encompassing ten vectors of compassionate and humanizing forces. Why is this book important for "the rest of us?" Not only will the majority of Americans have a direct need for lawyers, but also lawyers dominate our government, influence our businesses, and set a moral level for our society. This is a pivotal time for change in lawyering and "Lawyer, Know Thyself" is a clarion call for all of us. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. She got it. The dark, naked, and ...By emilyShe got it. The dark, naked, and honest truth of a legal profession. It was a pleasure and honor to meet the author in person and get an autograph. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Must-Read for Lawyers - get a happy professional life. By GLR This book is many things - 2 books in one; a hothouse of numberless surveys; sourcebook for further research. It is factual, dark, frightening, compelling, objective, a must-read. It is hopeful, optimistic, wholesome. It has one focus, and direction - the community of lawyers - a breed that others love to hate; the subject of unending ridicule, hatred, and pungent humour; ambulance chasers, cold, aseptic; masculine, competitive, commercial. Are we all so? What makes us so? Why this universal dislike? Diacoff has a terrible task on hand. And she comes out with flying colours. She shortlists 3 emerging problems - (1) a lack of "professionalism" - frequent complaints of incivility, discourtesy, "Rambo-style" litigation, unethical behaviour, poor conduct of lawyers and judges; (2) low public opinion of lawyers and the legal profession; and (3) low levels of job satisfaction, and mental well-being among lawyers, distress, alcoholism, and substance abuse. Diacoff's solution? Comprehensive lawyering that looks as much to psychological needs, emotions, and relations with others as to rights, duties, and obligations. Again on the force of all-round research, she suggests 10 vectors of this "change-movement". All seek to prevent litigation, encourage collaborative approach to problem-solving, aim at the "well-being" of all parties, interdisciplinary, allows them to share power equally, allows the lawyer to function in harmony with her morals and beliefs. These vectors include preventive law, procedural justice, problem-solving courts, restorative justice.

This work reviews 40 years' worth of empirical studies on lawyers and law students and how to identify themselves with the profile and personality of the typical lawyer. If they do not fit this profile, the book suggests how atypical lawyers can practise law most successfully.