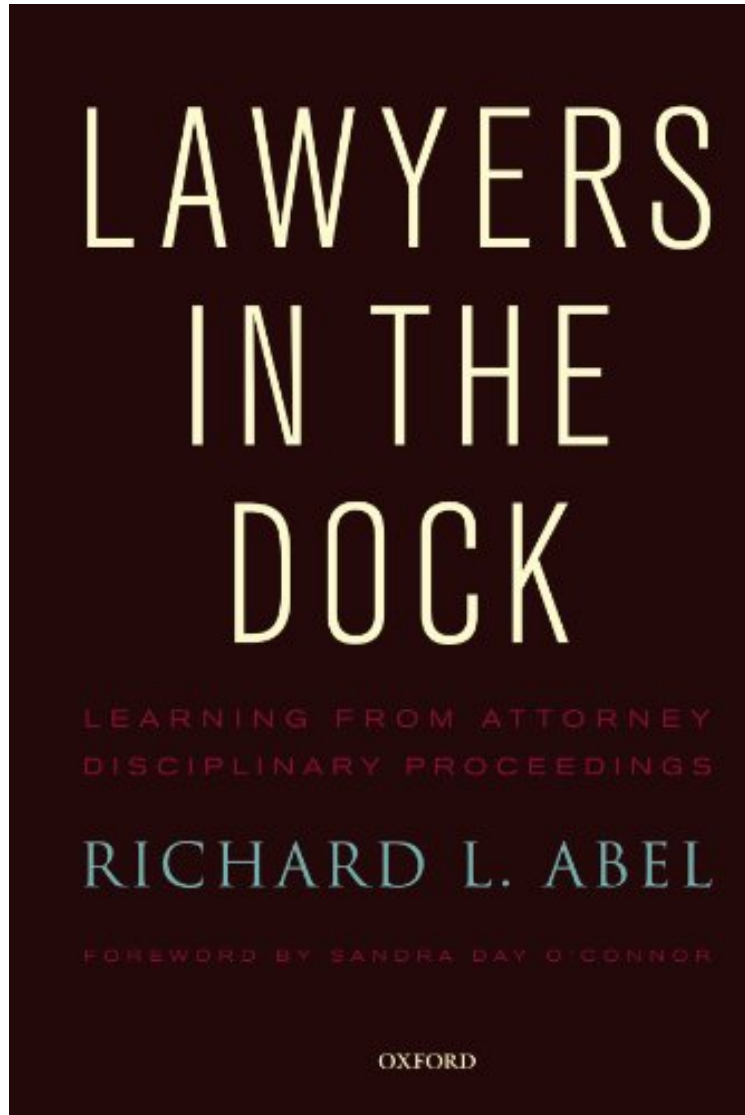


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Lawyers in the Dock

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For more than a decade, American lawyers have bewailed the ethical crisis in their profession, wringing their hands

about its bad image. But their response has been limited to spending money on public relations, mandating education, and endlessly revising ethical rules. In *Lawyers in the Dock*, Richard L. Abel argues that these measures will do little or nothing to solve the problems illustrated by the six disciplinary case studies featured in this book unless the legal monopoly enjoyed by attorneys in the U.S. is drastically contracted. Richard Abel examines some of the most common ethical complaints made about lawyers in *Lawyers in the Dock*. Using detailed records of disciplinary proceedings, he describes the actions surrounding certain cases based on three of the most common complaints: neglecting the client by failing to pursue cases diligently; overcharging of clients by mystifying billing practices; and betraying adversaries and courts out of excessive loyalty to clients or causes. Richard Abel argues that these measures will do little or nothing to solve the problems exposed by his six disciplinary case studies unless structural changes are made to the legal monopoly in order to restore the public trust in lawyers. *Lawyers in the Dock* is essential reading for lawyers, law students, and potential clients who wish to restore trust and professional responsibility in the legal profession.

"Richard Abel has produced an interesting and provocative book. Anyone interested in the nature of lawyers' work, and the problems lawyers can create for themselves in carrying out that work, will be interested in what Abel shows in his case studies." -*Law and Politics Book*, June 2009 "Drawing on detailed records of six disciplinary proceedings and on an extensive body of theoretical literature, Abel considers the structural causes of systemic moral failure in the legal profession. He argues that typical measures to deal with ethical lapses by lawyers are ineffective and concludes that the monopoly power enjoyed by attorneys in the United States must be drastically contracted." -*Law Social Inquiry*, Fall 2009

About the Author Richard L. Abel is a Professor of Law at the UCLA Law School, where he helps operate the UCLA Program in Public Interest Law and Policy. Before he taught at UCLA, he was a professor at Yale Law School, from 1969-1974, during which he was a lawyer with New Haven Legal Assistance Association. Professor Abel graduated from Columbia Law School in 1965, after which he practiced law in the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law in Jackson, Mississippi. He was also a Marshall Scholar and Foreign Area Fellow in London and Nairobi, attaining his Ph.D in African customary law.