

Even though his story is populated with famous judges, including Irving Lehman, Henry Friendly, Harlan Stone, and Learned Hand, Nelson brings to light a great deal that is new. He accomplishes this through wide reading in 620 volumes of state appellate cases in the *New York Supplement*, federal appellate cases, and a statistical analysis of some 50,000 trial cases. Nelson details how the legalist ideology, whatever its lofty ambitions, took shape less through great constitutional challenges and more through a steady stream of disputes over contracts, torts, the application of zoning law, the law of fiduciaries and changes in the rules of civil procedure. Given the relative absence of galvanizing cases, the legalist reformation was not recognized as a fully coherent ideological movement, but instead emerged one case at a time as judges continued to extend equality and economic opportunity across decades and across the common law. These cases amounted, in their continuous accretion, to a powerful new ideology only half-perceived by its creators. One of Nelson's signal accomplishments is his ability to give coherence to a legal reformation that has no easily identifiable markers and can be discerned only when taken as a whole.

Nelson is primarily interested in how broad historical change played out in the common law. In his attention to New York politics in the 1920s, to the role of World War II, and to the divisive events of 1968, he identifies the social and political changes driving doctrinal change. Yet, perhaps inevitably, given the scope of the book, there are points where the historical forest becomes somewhat detached from the doctrinal trees.

This book is a major contribution to twentieth-century American legal history. It goes into extraordinary depth into New York common law across the century and considers how one influential state legal system, for a time at least, successfully met the legal demands of religious and ethnic diversity. Nelson persuasively argues that mid-twentieth-century legalist reformers in New York articulated a still-powerful ideology of human dignity through law and a social vision of accommodating diversity "that today has matured into the hope of the progressive world" (8).

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### Errata

Matthew W. Finkin's review of Jack Beatson and Reinhard Zimmermann, *Jurists Uprooted: German-Speaking Émigré Lawyers in Twentieth-Century Britain* (*LHR* 24 [2006]: 459-62), misspelled the names of Jack Beatson, Barry Nicholas, Gerhard Leibholz, and Wolfgang Friedmann. The book review editor regrets these errors.