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## Pillars of Justice: Lawyers and the Liberal Tradition

*Owen Fiss*


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### PILLARS OF JUSTICE

Lawyers and the Liberal Tradition

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**Owen Fiss : Pillars of Justice: Lawyers and the Liberal Tradition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pillars of Justice: Lawyers and the Liberal Tradition:

Pillars of Justice explores the purpose and possibilities of life in the law through moving accounts of thirteen lawyers who shaped the legal world during the past half century. Some, such as Thurgood Marshall, were Supreme Court Justices. Others, like John Doar and Burke Marshall, set the civil rights policies of the federal government during the

1960s. Some, including Harry Kalven and Catharine MacKinnon, have taught at the greatest law schools of the nation and nourished the liberalism rooted in the civil rights era. Jurists from abroad Aharon Barak, for example were responsible for the rise of the human rights movement that today carries the burden of advancing liberal values. These lawyers came from diverse backgrounds and held various political views. What unites them is a deep, abiding commitment to *Brown v. Board of Education* as an exceptional moment in the life of the law a willingness to move mountains, if need be, to ensure that we are living up to our best selves. In tracing how these lawyers over a period of fifty years used the *Brown* ruling and its spirit as a beacon to guide their endeavors, this history tells the epic story of the liberal tradition in the law. For Owen Fiss, one of the countrys leading constitutional theorists, the people described were mentors, colleagues, friends. In his portraits, Fiss tries to identify the unique qualities of mind and character that made these individuals so important to the institutions and legal principles they served.

This book is a testimonial for all of those who can still believe in the nobility of law the capacity, as Fiss says, of law working itself pure. This is an enormously important message, and it surely deserves to be heard at a time when idealism and faith in law are in very short supply in this country. (Stanley N. Katz, Princeton University) In his elegant portraits of leading legal figures of our day, Fiss brilliantly captures a particular moment in the recent history of liberalism, one full of the promise that law could make good on its twin commitments to liberty and equality. An important, timely, and unexpectedly moving book. (Lawrence Douglas, Amherst College) Fiss, an eminent constitutional scholar, offers a warm and generous reflection on the men and women who shaped his life in the law. (Michael O'Donnell New York Times Book 2017-04-27) One of the greatest teachers I've ever had A master teacher who had a clear view of the law as an engine of justice and of fundamental values This book is a book about thirteen of Owens greatest teachers and his vision of the law and his heroes in the law the people who inspired him to carry on this torch of reason. He calls one of his teachers, Aharon Barak, an apostle of the Enlightenment and thats what Owen Fiss is. (Jeffrey Rosen, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center) About the Author Owen Fiss is Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law at Yale University.