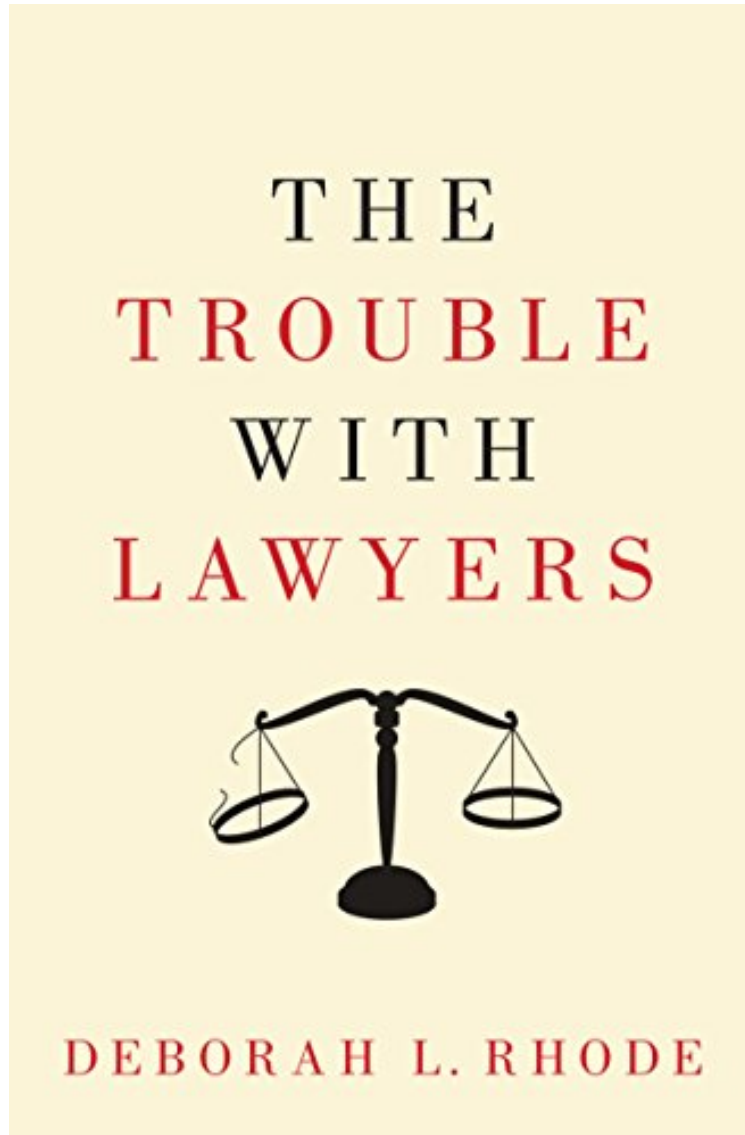


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The Trouble with Lawyers

Von Deborah L. Rhode

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Von Deborah L. Rhode : The Trouble with Lawyers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Trouble with Lawyers:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
HIGHLY OPINIONATED, OF COURSE AND DELICIOUSLY AMERICANVon Phillip Taylor MBEHIGHLY OPINIONATED, OF COURSE AND DELICIOUSLY AMERICANWITH SOMETHING WE BRITS WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE ISSUE WITH: OR WOULD WE!An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor

of Richmond Green Chambers Lawyers can be a troublesome bunch of professionals although that is the nature of our work! So when we read *The Trouble with Lawyers* by Deborah Rhode we realized that Oxford University Press has published another most useful statement on the direction lawyers might take for the future because what happens in America can often affect us here and vice versa. Certainly the legal profession in England and Wales is going through a further transition of its own as digitalization takes over many tasks with the arrival of artificial intelligence so a number of important legal practice management books have started appearing questioning our future, long term survival so we must take it more seriously and as a priority! And that is where Deborah Rhode comes in. By any measure, the law as a profession could be considered to be in serious trouble at present to some, and to others it could be going through another transitional period although the American position is reviewed with great clarity in this most interesting, and potentially alarming book, delightfully entitled *The Trouble with Lawyers* which is an intriguing title to set the mind thinking. It is unfortunately the case that an American's trust in his or her lawyer is at a serious low point, and many members of the profession are suggesting that they wish they had chosen a different path. The same, of course, could be said for both doctors and lawyers here in the UK although the skills of a doctor are much more readily transferable than those of the lawyer on the international stage. To compound the problem, law schools, with their continually rising fees both here and elsewhere, are churning out too many graduates for the jobs available but that is the same in other fields critics would point out. Yet despite the over-subscribed number of lawyers, the USA ranks 67th (tied with Uganda) out of 97 countries with what is termed access to justice and affordability of legal services and we dare not speculate on the UK's position. The higher echelons of the legal establishment remain heavily white and male in many countries even though some substantial efforts have been introduced in order to encourage diversity, especially here with the Bar Council. And, as Rhode postulates, most problematic of all, the professional bodies that could help alleviate these concerns instead (allegedly) jealously protect their prerogatives, stifling necessary innovation and failing to hold practitioners accountable. Rhode's interesting book *The Trouble with Lawyers* represents a comprehensive account of the challenges which face the American Bar and will be of great interest to English Counsel. She examines how the problems have affected (and originated within) law schools, firms, and governance institutions like the Bar associations; the impact on the justice system and access to lawyers for the poor; and the profession's underlying difficulties with diversity which, frankly, we all have to face in the western world. Rhode describes and uncovers the structural problems, from the tyranny of law school rankings and billable hours to the lack of accountability and innovation built into legal governance—all of which do a disservice to lawyers, their clients, and the public... nicely put! Yes, it's correct to say that *The Trouble with Lawyers* represents a clear call to fix a profession that has gone badly off the rails, and a source of innovative responses. This is an important book at an important time for the legal profession both here and abroad so do read it carefully as it could affect your own future! Thank you Deborah for a great contribution to the continuing debate!

Kurzbeschreibung By any measure, the law as a profession is in serious trouble. Americans' trust in lawyers is at a low, and many members of the profession wish they had chosen a different path. Law schools, with their endlessly rising tuitions, are churning out too many graduates for the jobs available. Yet despite the glut of lawyers, the United States ranks 67th (tied with Uganda) of 97 countries in access to justice and affordability of legal services. The upper echelons of the legal establishment remain heavily white and male. Most problematic of all, the professional organizations that could help remedy these concerns instead jealously protect their prerogatives, stifling necessary innovation and failing to hold practitioners accountable. Deborah Rhode's *The Trouble with Lawyers* is a comprehensive account of the challenges facing the American bar. She examines how the problems have affected (and originated within) law schools, firms, and governance institutions like bar associations; the impact on the justice system and access to lawyers for the poor; and the profession's underlying difficulties with diversity. She uncovers the structural problems, from the tyranny of law school rankings and billable hours to the lack of accountability and innovation built into legal governance—all of which do a disservice to lawyers, their clients, and the public. *The Trouble with Lawyers* is a clear call to fix a profession that has gone badly off the rails, and a source of innovative responses.

Pressestimmen "The Trouble with Lawyers is well indexed and written in a lively, engaging style. Rhode intersperses anecdotes with statements of facts in a way that makes for an inviting text. Who should read this book? Everyone contemplating becoming a lawyer, college prelaw placement advisers, law school librarians and placement officers, and anyone interested in legal ethics and the practicalities of the legal profession should read *The Trouble with Lawyers*." -Elizabeth A. Greenfield, *Law Library Journal* "This important book should be widely read and could lay the foundation for a significant reform agenda. Highly recommended." -J. A. Pierceson, University of Illinois at Springfield, *Choice* "Rhode's interesting book *The Trouble with Lawyers* represents a comprehensive account of the challenges which face the American Bar and will be of great interest to English Counsel. This is an important book at an important time for the legal profession both here and abroad so do read it carefully as it could affect your own future. Thank you Deborah for a great contribution to the continuing debate." Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth

Taylor, Richmond Green Chambers "[An] honest, well researched account of the spectre of decreasing public access to justice that is resulting, inter alia, from an unsustainably increasing number of law schools, law students, and lawyers in the United States." -Magdalene D'Silva, *The Modern Law* "The Trouble with Lawyers is well indexed and written in a lively, engaging style. Rhode intersperses anecdotes with statements of facts in a way that makes for an inviting text. Who should read this book? Everyone contemplating becoming a lawyer, college prelaw placement advisers, law school librarians and placement officers, and anyone interested in legal ethics and the practicalities of the legal profession should read *The Trouble with Lawyers*." -Elizabeth A. Greenfield, *Law Library Journal* "This important book should be widely read and could lay the foundation for a significant reform agenda. Highly recommended." -J. A. Pierceson, University of Illinois at Springfield, *Choice* "Rhode's interesting book *The Trouble with Lawyers* represents a comprehensive account of the challenges which face the American Bar and will be of great interest to English Counsel. This is an important book at an important time for the legal profession both here and abroad so do read it carefully as it could affect your own future. Thank you Deborah for a great contribution to the continuing debate." Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor, Richmond Green Chambers "[An] honest, well researched account of the spectre of decreasing public access to justice that is resulting, inter alia, from an unsustainably increasing number of law schools, law students, and lawyers in the United States." -Magdalene D'Silva, *The Modern Law*

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