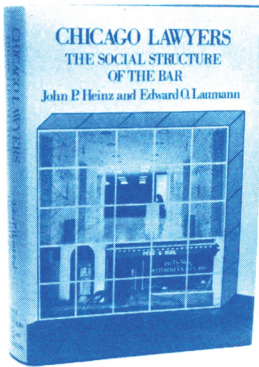


****"A landmark volume . . ."**



CHICAGO LAWYERS

The Social Structure of the Bar

John P. Heinz and Edward O. Laumann

The legal profession has grown immensely in size, diversity, and influence—but some lawyers clearly have more influence than others. What determines the systematic allocation of status, power, and economic reward among lawyers? What kind of social structure organizes lawyers' roles in the bar and in the larger community?

As Heinz and Laumann convincingly demonstrate, the legal profession is stratified primarily by the character of the clients served, not by the type of legal service rendered. In fact, the distinction between corporate and individual clients divides the bar into two remarkably separate hemispheres. Using data from extensive personal interviews with nearly eight hundred Chicago lawyers, the authors show that lawyers who serve one type of client seldom serve the other. Furthermore, lawyers' political, ethno-religious, and social ties are very likely to correspond to those of their clients. The distribution of prestige among lawyers reflects the dichotomy of client types. Greater deference is consistently shown to corporate lawyers, who seem to acquire power by association with their powerful clients.

Heinz and Laumann also discover that these two "hemispheres" of the legal profession are not effectively integrated by intraprofessional organizations such as the bar, the courts, or law schools. The fact that the bar is structured primarily along extraprofessional lines raises intriguing questions about law and the nature of professionalism, questions addressed in a provocative and far-ranging final chapter.

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****"A landmark volume. . . . The argument that attorney prestige is a reflection of client prestige is beautifully developed as are the consequences. . . . This is a major contribution to the field of sociology of law and to the study of the professions."**

—Samuel Krislov,

Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota

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