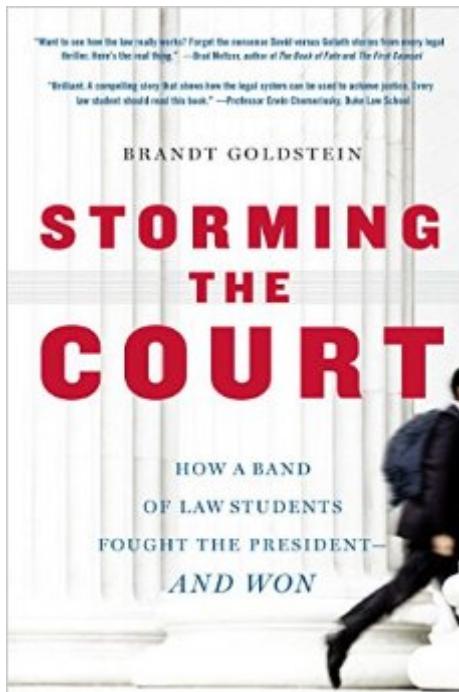


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# Storming The Court: How A Band Of Law Students Fought The President--and Won



## **Synopsis**

In 1992, three hundred innocent Haitian men, women, and children who had qualified for political asylum in the United States were detained at GuantÃ¡namo Bay, Cuba -- and told they might never be freed. Charismatic democracy activist Yvonne Pascal and her fellow refugees had no contact with the outside world, no lawyers, and no hope . . . until a group of inspired Yale Law School students vowed to free them. Pitting the students and their untested professor Harold Koh against Kenneth Starr, the Justice Department, the Pentagon, and Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, this real-life legal thriller takes the reader from the halls of Yale and the federal courts of New York to the slums of Port-au-Prince and the windswept hills of GuantÃ¡namo Bay and ultimately to the U.S. Supreme Court. Written with grace and passion, *Storming the Court* captures the emotional highs and despairing lows of a legal education like no other -- a high-stakes courtroom campaign against the White House in the name of the greatest of American values: freedom.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A great book. I am a law student and after three weeks of studying and taking finals the last thing I usually want to do is pick up a book, especially one having to do with law. But as soon as I picked this book up I was hooked and wound up finishing it the weekend after finals. Compelling and readable for those well-versed OR mystified by the law alike. I would HIGHLY recommend this to all law students out there. When immersed in legal education it is easy to lose focus as to why and how you got there in the first place. The book and story is inspiring. In reading about students,

professors, and highly regarded attorneys helping those that sought their help and offering to those who simply NEEDED it, the story help me recapture the desires I held when I started law school. Great work Mr. Goldstein and I look forward to reading your future work.

Damn you, Brandt Goldstein! I had a ton of work to do to get ready for a recent court appearance, but couldn't tear myself away from your book. And I already knew how it came out. As a lawyer, I was impressed by how you were able to take complicated legal concepts and make them not only easily understandable, but compelling reading. While it's obvious you had a good story to work with, you made it come alive in a way that makes me think you'd be great in front of a jury -- you're a real storyteller. While the events happened in the '90s, the book is as fresh as today's headlines about detainees at Guantanamo. Thanks for a great read.

I am a 3L about to graduate from law school and this book makes me want to shake off law firm salaries for the sake of making a change in this world. In less grandios terms, it makes me proud to be a future lawyer. I saw Brandt Goldstein speak just before reading the book and he mentioned that he wrote the book to read like a legal thriller. I was not disappointed in this respect. He parallels the plight of the Haitians with the efforts of the law students. Politics, Legal Procedure, Trial strategy, and diplomacy are all addressed in an entertaining narrative. The cover gives away the ending but the value of this book lies in the way the author pulls the reader into full identification with amateur lawyers. Although it is a must read for all lawyers, anyone would find enjoyment from this short read.

When my law school registration packet came in the mail and I saw that in addition to the \$1,000 worth of required books I needed for my classes there was an additional novel that I was required to read before orientation, I was a little unnerved. My initial plan was to hold off reading until a few nights before my orientation so the contents of *Storming the Court* was fresh in my mind and I could engage in discussion questions with confidence. When the book came in the mail, I figured I would do a quick skim of the first few pages just to see what the story was about and then I would put it on the bookshelf until August. Well, the "quick skim" turned into an all-nighter filled with a few cups of coffee and a lot of quick page turning. The book reads like a David Baldacci thriller. There is so much action, drama and real life human emotion in this book that it was impossible to put down. I refuse to put plot details in my book reviews but the greatest part of this book is how relatable the characters were to myself. They reinforced why I wanted to go to law school in the first place- to help people. This was a fantastic book and I really hope that you read it whether it's required by

your school or not, whether you're a law student or not, or whether or not you think you would or wouldn't like a legal thriller. CHECK IT OUT!

Interesting subject matter: the Haitian refugees case and the perennial problem of the USA Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba. Sometimes the story just stops moving forward. An unwieldy cast: at least there's a Who's Who in the back of the book. One-sided: unconditional acceptance of boat people by the reader is an assumption. He's cheering for the student lawyers. More balanced and disciplined debate and scholarship would have been an improvement. This book has a Movie of the Week quality that just scratches the surface of history and politics.

This book was great! It did an awesome job of taking legal terminology and making it simple enough for non-lawyers to understand. The main character of the Haitian refugee camp came to life and I wanted to rescue her from the Guantanamo nightmare myself. This book inspired me to continue to fight against injustices and to keep fighting despite the seemingly unsurmountable obstacles. I would recommend it to everyone! Great information on the Haitian coup as well.

Storming the Court is an exciting page-turner, a legal thriller that just happens to be fact, not fiction. If you want to find out how the US government first got into the habit of using Guantanamo as a prison where they could lock people up and just throw away the key, read this book. It tells the story of how a bunch of law students sued the US president to free some poor Haitian "boat people," snatched by the Coast Guard and left to rot on Guantanamo. And it tells this story very well.

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