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Book Review: Legal Eagles: Stories of the Top Seven Indian Lawyers

Pranav Arora^a

^aGuru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India

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INTRODUCTION

India is a nation with an extraordinary legal structure and has produced consummate legal counsellors and advisers in the history of the field of the legal system, that is, the judiciary. The book¹ 'Legal Eagles' is a gem that revolves around the stories of one of the best and most renowned legal workers in the nation. It deals with the life, the task accomplished, the struggle and obstacles faced by these seven attorneys that have led them to reach the top of the mountain in their career.² The seven attorneys that the book talks about are Harish Salve, Mukul Rohatgi, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, C.A. Sundaram, Rohinton Nariman, Arvind Datar, and Prashant Bhushan. Every lawyer discussed in this book is interconnected with every other lawyer for the landmark and historic cases they have dealt with together or fought against each other. This

¹ Deepak Singhal, 'legal Eagles : Stories of the top seven Indian lawyers' (*Probono India*, 2020) <<https://www.probono-india.in/book-review-interviews-detail.php?id=577>> accessed 25 august 2022

² *Ibid*

book is a huge inspiration and a booster to all the aspirants of law. This present generation sees all of them as role models and is inspired to be like them in life.

ABOUT THE BOOK

“LEGAL EAGLES: STORIES OF THE TOP SEVEN INDIAN LAWYERS” is an inspirational and thought-provoking narrative book. It is written by Indu Bhan who is a top-tier legal reporter in India for over a decade. Moreover, she pens a weekly column named ‘Verdict Corner’ which puts light on the recent happening taking place in the field of law. The foreword of the book has been composed by the Former Chief Justice of India, R.M. Lodha. This book talks about the journey of these top seven Indian lawyers, and how they fought their way which led them to the path of success. Further ahead, it reflects on the milestones achieved by these consummate attorneys which have had a significant effect on the country, their victories, and their setbacks in their life, their method of litigation in the courtroom, and their work ethics. This book also contains the historic and prominent cases fought by each of these seven lawyers in their legal career

SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

This Inspirational book is a huge motivation to every aspirant of law or every young lawyer in this country. The way these seven lawyers earned their way to the hall of fame is something to learn about. The book examines the life of every lawyer separately and how their extraordinary work in the courtroom has had a great impact on the political, economic, and social field of the nation. The book even contains the early life as well as the personal life of the seven eminent legal personalities of the nation. Some high-profile cases like Coalgate, Vodafone Tax Case, 2G Spectrum case, and Ambani brothers Case were handled and taken care of by the lawyers discussed in this book. Not every one of them initially decided to be an attorney. Harish Salve and Arvind Datar were among those who didn’t think of becoming a lawyer at first, however, it was the destiny of a life that not only led them into this profession but end up being the ace of the major leagues of this profession. Unlike them, Prashant Bhushan, Rohinton Nariman, and Mukul Rohatgi carried ahead the legacy of their family profession. The book spreads a message

that it takes something more than knowledge to be a consummate legal counselor. It takes long hours of hard work, determination, grinding, and a lot of high-quality skill sets which split the outstanding legal counselors from the normal ones. Speaking of about the qualities and skills of these eminent lawyers individually, **Abhishek Manu Singhvi** is an outstanding legal scholar, parliamentarian, media man or woman, journalist, writer, and analyst. He was the youngest Additional Solicitor General at 37 years old. He puts down great emphasis on "Readiness" – each "Case Preparedness" and "Court Preparedness".³ The enormous cases he handled are "NTC Bombay mills", and "Mandal". **Harish Salve** is a legal counselor who failed twice in the Chartered Accountancy Examination. He assisted Palkhivala in the "Minerva Mills" case. Palkhivala told him to get the chambers along concerning Soli Sorabjee. The most praiseworthy case is the "Carrier Bonds" for which he got applause from a few senior attorneys. He was honored as "Senior Advocate" by the Delhi High Court. His noteworthy cases included prominent personalities like the Ambanis and Mahindras. The third well-known presence is **Aryaman Sundaram**, grandson of Sir. C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer. Sir C.P. always wanted his grandson to turn into an attorney. Sundaram started his lawful vocation in the law office of "Lord and Partridge". Afterward, he began his lawful firm. At 38, he was the youngest lawyer ever to be assigned as "Senior Advocate" throughout the entire existence of the Madras High Court. Sundaram spoke to the FICCI in the 2G Spectrum Presidential reference. As of now, he is taking care of the scandalous India Premier League (IPL) spot-fixing and wagering case being heard in the Supreme Court. **Prashant Bhushan** is a consummate attorney and the son of lawful mammoth, Shanti Bhushan. Prashant indulged in some general freedom matters in his career. During the outrageous crisis in 1983, he joined the PUCL. He even contributed to the arrangement of the Aam Aadmi Party. PILs were his strong zone. He managed high-profile cases that had kept the government alarmed like the 2G Spectrum case, the Coalgate case, and Coal and Iron Ore mining case. He did a remarkable job in all of them. All being the hard work done him the Supreme Court dropped all 122 licenses on 2nd February 2012 and asked him for selling them again. Prashant has always had an impact on whatever he talks about in court. **Rohinton Nariman**, the legal counselor without a privileged background rose to the bench on

³ *Ibid*

his own feet. It was a commendable job done by him in a case that struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 which was a famous verdict on the privilege of the right to speak freely of discourse on the Internet and was hailed by all legal advisers. Soli Sorabjee pronounced, "The judgment is all around explored, very much contemplated and savvy in articulation." As a legal counsellor Rohinton was a motivation to the youthful hopefuls due to his ethos, and the difficult work, enthusiasm, and duty he put into each concise. The next reputed personality is **Mukul Rohatgi**, a senior advocate and an Additional Solicitor General in the Vajpayee government. He handled the controversial case of the Ambani brothers, the commonwealth game, the scam, and the 2G scam. He is regarded as a very client-friendly person and has a result-oriented approach in life. In the end, the author talks about another outstanding lawyer, **Arvind Datar**. He didn't have an early life as privileged as the other attorneys had. He faced financial issues and health issues in his early life yet all those problems didn't stand in his way of becoming an outstanding legal counselor in India. He fought a vital case on the issue of leasing along with Nani Palkhiwala. The senior advocate also handled the case of Michael Jackson. He highly believed in the method of prior planning and goal setting in his career.

ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK

The book is a great effort of the author to inspire developing lawyers in our country. It talks about how endless grinding, hard work, and determination can result in glittering awards for the person in this field. Young lawyers love hearing them arguing in Court and why not, these people have towered over the rest, and that too deservedly. The book discusses different personalities from different cultures and backgrounds with one aim among all of them, that is, to be the best and never give up. This book produces an urge in the readers to build a career like these consummate and eminent legal counselors.⁴ Nevertheless, every person has to deal with setbacks and failures but that doesn't mean that one can never succeed in their life is what this book spreads a message about.

⁴ *Ibid*

CONCLUSION

It is an outstanding book that will surely sprout more and more legal counselors like these seven. The book is going to teach them to secure skills in argument, the impression of legitimate standards, and order over language and professional verbalization. If one is aiming to be the best attorney in the nation, then this is a must-read for that aspirant.