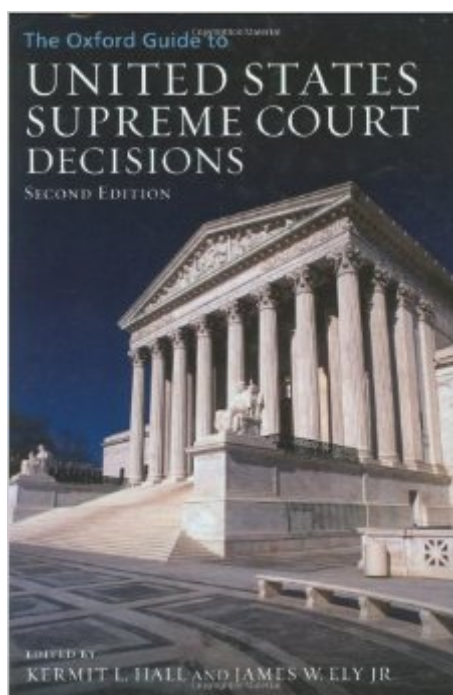


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The Oxford Guide To United States Supreme Court Decisions



Synopsis

The Supreme Court has been the site of some of the great debates of American history, from child labor and prayer in the schools, to busing and abortion. The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions offers lively and insightful accounts of the most important cases ever argued before the Court, from *Marbury v. Madison* and *Scott v. Sandford* (the Dred Scott decision) to *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Roe v. Wade*. This new edition of the Guide contains more than 450 entries on major Supreme Court cases, including 53 new entries on the latest landmark rulings. Among the new entries are *Bush v. Gore*, *Nixon v. United States*, *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood Federation of America*, and *Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights*. Four decisions (*Hamdi v. Bush*, *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, *Rasul v. Bush*, and *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*) are considered in a single essay entitled "Enemy Combatant Cases." Arranged alphabetically and written by eminent legal scholars, each entry provides the United States Reports citation, the date the case was argued and decided, the vote of the Justices, who wrote the opinion for the Court, who concurred, and who dissented. More important, the entries feature an informative account of the particulars of the case, the legal and social background, the reasoning behind the Court's decision, and the case's impact on American society. For this edition, Ely has added an extensive Further Reading section and revised the Case Index and Topical Index. For anyone interested in the great controversies of our time, this invaluable book is a must-read primer on the epic constitutional battles that have informed American life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This work contains synopses of the most important US Supreme Court cases in US history. One can criticize the level of detail given in each case, but I decided most cases were presented in about the right amount of detail for a cursory understanding. In some respects the volume has been supplanted by Google on the internet, but I found that it was relatively easy to find a case if I knew the general subject or the plaintiff's name. The index was not complete, and that was a serious deficiency given that this was intended to be a work of ready reference. Other features that were particularly useful included the glossary of terms, mostly legal, the inclusion of the Constitution for reference, the nominations and succession of justices, appointments by each president, and other references by legal topic. Here, my only criticism was that there was no list of references on the history of Common Law going back in England and containing works covering the development of citizenship and legal institutions under Common Law. For some reason, these subject continue to be a complete mystery to American lawyers to our great misfortune. Frankly, this volume should be on the shelf for every American interested in politics, democracy, and the American republic. The topics contained within have attained enormous importance over time, and many of these cases should be well-known to American voters. I highly recommend this book to all. One could much worse than starting at the front and reading through the volume from cover to cover. That might sound extreme, but there are simply so many things that citizens need to know that such action is probably necessary. After reading the Bible, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, everyone should read this book. In fact, it probably should be required for high school graduation.

This book is handy for all law majors or those of us who are interested in the Supreme Court. It gives briefs on major cases. Not much else but good source for review.

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