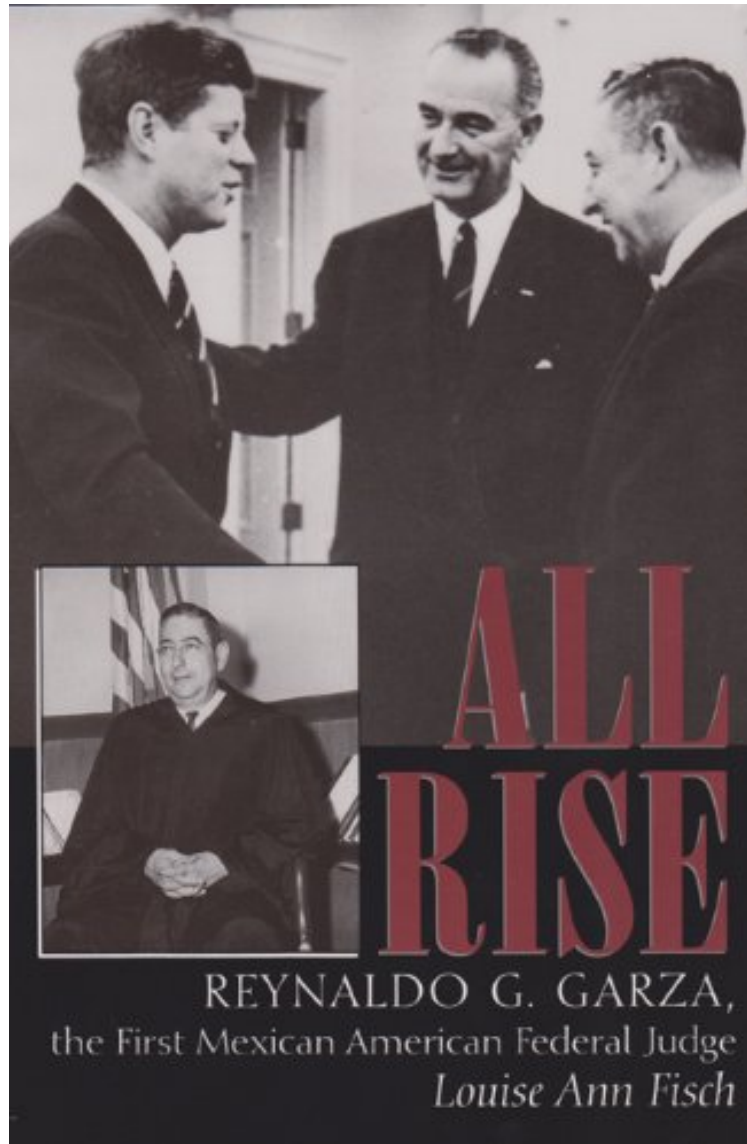


[Pdf free] All Rise: Reynaldo G. Garza, the First Mexican American Federal Judge (Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas AM University)

## **All Rise: Reynaldo G. Garza, the First Mexican American Federal Judge (Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas AM University)**

*Louise Ann Fisch*

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**Louise Ann Fisch : All Rise: Reynaldo G. Garza, the First Mexican American Federal Judge (Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas AM University)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not

it would be worth my time, and all praised *All Rise: Reynaldo G. Garza, the First Mexican American Federal Judge* (Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas AM University):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I felt like gagging as I read this book and finally could ...By CustomerI find the author to be naive and biased in her assessment of Reynaldo Garza, his life and the politics of South Texas. Her initial premise regarding biculturalism is flawed. Anyone who lived in South Texas and understood the culture would understand that from page one. I felt like gagging as I read this book and finally could not finish it. Too bad, the people deserve a deeper understanding of what was really happening at the time.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Somewhat disappointing biography of a South Texas legendBy A CustomerReynaldo G. Garza is a giant in the political and legal history of Texas and is most deserving of biographical treatment. *All Rise* successfully recounts many of the highlights of Judge Garza's life and career. It ultimately disappoints, however. First, the author lacks the legal background necessary to explain the significance of many of Judge Garza's judicial opinions. Second, the book fails to fully introduce the reader to the biographical subject himself, leaving him portrayed as two-dimensional and leaving the reader wanting more.

In 1961, Reynaldo G. Garza, of Brownsville, Texas, became the first Mexican American federal judge in U.S. history. A Kennedy nominee, Garza had risen from the obscurity of his humble South Texas beginnings to become a major player in Democratic politics. The careers of fellow Texans and political giants Lyndon B. Johnson and Lloyd Bentsen would become linked with his own. As an emerging power broker in the predominantly Anglo establishment, Garza personified the new elite in the Mexican American community and in the Democratic Party. Garza's long and storied tenure as a federal judge was marked by many more firsts. He became the first Mexican American chief judge of a federal district court, and, in 1979, Garza became the first Mexican American appointed to the United States Court of Appeals. President Carter invited him to become U.S. Attorney General, which would have made him the first Mexican American member of a presidential cabinet had he accepted the appointment. Louise Ann Fisch argues that Garza's long list of successes comprises a story of American achievement that had much to do with one man's ability to retain his heritage while forging ahead in an Anglo-dominated society. A product of the cross-border culture of Brownsville, where class and ethnic lines fell differently than even elsewhere along the Rio Grande, Garza integrated himself into the mainstream of American life, successfully balancing the Mexican and American parts of his dual identity. Fisch keenly analyzes the impact of ethnic identity on how he conducted his professional and personal life and looks specifically at the judicial issues he faced which confronted cultural dichotomy. Relying on interviews with Garza, his family and associates, verified through extensive archival and documentary work--including unrestricted access to the judge's papers--Fisch has written a book that is as much a careful examination of the rise of the Mexican American middle class in the twentieth century as it is a portrait of one pioneering man. Students and scholars of Mexican American culture, Borderlands studies, American politics, and judicial history will find in this biography an invaluable resource. Readers will be captivated by Fisch's probing look into the mythos that underlies tales of political power and the American Dream.

From Library JournalThis is a biography of Reynaldo G. Garza, the first Mexican American to reach a federal judgeship and a member of an important generation of Mexican Americans about whom little has been written, particularly for a general audience. The book is valuable for what it reveals about upwardly mobile middle-class Mexican Americans growing up in Texas, a state memorable for its anti-Mexican prejudice. The author's primary thesis is that Judge Garza succeeded by retaining a "bi-cultural ethnicity," allowing him to achieve successful integration into Anglo culture. A Texas native working as a writer in Washington, D.C., Fisch illustrates this point effectively. But there is little depth in her examination of the personal philosophy of Garza, whom she occasionally paints too uncritically, and at times her thesis seems unchallenged. Despite these shortcomings, much can be learned about Mexican Americans of this era. For ethnic studies collections. ?Roderic A. Camp, Latin American Ctr., Tulane Univ., New OrleansCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From the Back CoverIn 1961, Reynaldo G. Garza, of Brownsville, Texas, became the first Mexican American federal judge in U.S. history. A Kennedy nominee, Garza had risen from the obscurity of his humble South Texas beginnings to become a major player in Democratic politics. The careers of fellow Texans and political giants Lyndon B. Johnson and Lloyd Bentsen would become linked with his own. As an emerging power broker in the predominantly Anglo establishment, Garza personified the new elite in the Mexican American community and in the Democratic Party. Garza's long and storied tenure as a federal judge was marked by many more firsts. He became the first Mexican American chief judge of a federal district court, and, in 1979, Garza became the first Mexican American appointed to the United States Court of Appeals President Carter invited him to become U.S. Attorney General, which would have made him the first Mexican American member of a presidential cabinet had he accepted the appointment. Louise Ann Fisch argues that Garza's long list of successes comprises a story of American achievement that had much to do with one man's ability to retain his heritage while forging ahead in an Anglo-dominated society. A product of the cross-border culture of Brownsville, where class and

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About the Author Louise Ann Fisch, a native of Brownsville, Texas, received a bachelor of journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.A. in history from Tulane University. She currently works as a writer in Washington, D.C.