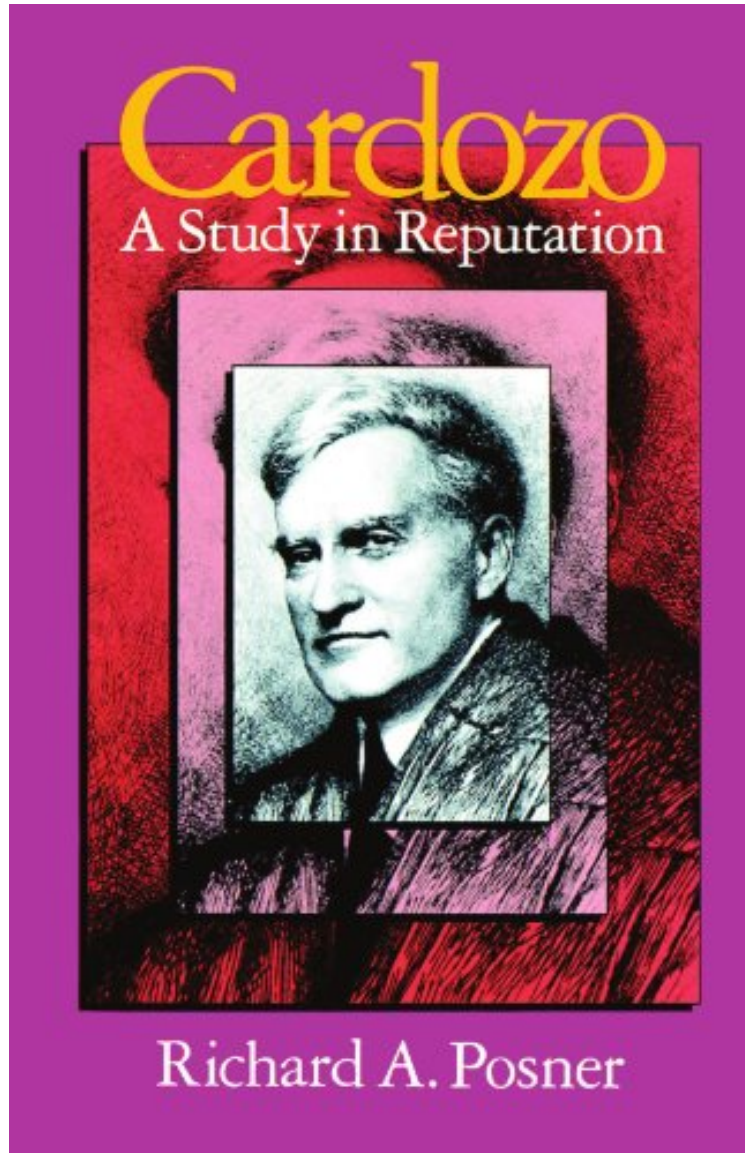


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Cardozo: A Study in Reputation

Richard A. Posner

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Richard A. Posner : Cardozo: A Study in Reputation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cardozo: A Study in Reputation:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. As Danger Invites Rescue, Posner Stimulates IntellectBy Charles M. WyzanskiIf I recall his New Yorker profile accurately, Posner gets up at 4 a.m. every morning to maintain his extraordinary and excellent output as a public intellectual and judge of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. At 145 pages, this volume is perhaps Posner's shortest and--both because it is aimed at a general audience and resulted from a lecture

series--one of his most readable. My sense, however, is that it would only appeal to those already steeped in the profession. Not even a law student would find instructive comparisons with Stone, Hand, Friendly, Prosser, or Schaeffer. For those in the profession, however, I recommend this book most highly. It is less valuable for its purported study in reputation than for its profound, if succinct, understanding of Cardozo the man and the insight it provides into the style and logic of some of his best known decisions, Palsgraf and MacPherson chief among them. Posner's original attempt at a quantitative understanding of reputation relies on Cardozo's relative frequency of citation in some Westlaw data bases over the years. It is pseudo-scientific, redolent of Posner's application of economics to an understanding of the law and, while interesting, not very meaningful. The book as a whole, however, is most gratifying. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Deconstructing Justice Palsgraf By louienapoli Judge Posner examines the reasons for Cardozo's reputation and, more important, analyzes the rhetorical methods the judge used in creating some of the most renowned and cited decisions in American law. How and why he crafted the statement of the facts a certain way for one decision, a different way for another; how Cardozo used a lawyer's persuasive skills in reaching results he believed were warranted. Posner also examines the inconsistencies in Cardozo's thinking and opinion-writing. The book presents a portrait of a brilliant, prudent jurist and illuminates his professional shortcomings as well. May have little appeal for the non-lawyer, but for anyone interested in legal writing, the judicial process, and opinion-making, this is a terrific book. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Judge Posner at his best By JDCTerrific evaluation of Cardozo as a judge, where his greatness lay and how fits in with the small pantheon of great US judges. Short and to the point -- a model for intellectual biography. My favorite part was Judge Posner's enlightening discussions of several of Cardozo's great opinions. Brilliant insights on nearly every page -- about Cardozo, law, the judicial process, and lots of other subjects. My only quibble is with Judge Posner's chapter attempting to statistically analyze Cardozo's reputation, an endeavor I found somewhat tedious (albeit short) and unpersuasive .

What makes a great judge? How are reputations forged? Why do some reputations endure, while others crumble? And how can we know whether a reputation is fairly deserved? In this ambitious book, Richard Posner confronts these questions in the case of Benjamin Cardozo. The result is both a revealing portrait of one of the most influential legal minds of our century and a model for a new kind of study—a balanced, objective, critical assessment of a judicial career. "The present compact and unflaggingly interesting volume . . . is a full-bodied scholarly biography. . . . It is illuminating in itself, and will serve as a significant contribution." Paul A. Freund, *New York Times Book Review*

From *Library Journal* In this revised and expanded version of his University of Michigan Cooley Lectures, Posner, a U.S. Court of Appeals judge, offers a full-length critical judicial study of Benjamin Cardozo (1870-1938), appointed to the Supreme Court by Herbert Hoover. Posner compares and contrasts Cardozo with leading U.S. Supreme Court Justices and other 20th-century American judges. He shows that Cardozo's concern for common law adjudication was the base of the Justice's philosophy, and he carefully examines Cardozo's judicial analysis and Court opinions. A thoughtful addition to judicial biography collections. — Steven Puro, *St. Louis Univ.* Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover In this ambitious book, Richard Posner confronts these questions in the case of Benjamin Cardozo. The result is both a revealing portrait of one of the most influential legal minds of our century and a model for a new kind of study---a balanced, objective, critical assessment of a judicial career.