

Review of *Advocacy - A Practical Guide* by Peter Lyons

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This book is brilliant. Not only is it chock-full of very practical advice and examples about advocacy, but Lyons also shares insights of a rare kind that only come from those who have a mastery of their area or discipline.

Given that the art of persuasion and holding the interest of a court or jury is key to advocacy, it is no surprise that this is an engaging and entertaining read. The choice anecdotes and extracts from case transcripts illustrate the key messages Lyons is conveying to the reader in such a way that you can't help but reflect on your own advocacy.

The book had me aspiring to improve my advocacy skills and stirred a rekindling of the passion for advocacy which has at times been lost in the forest of competing demands of private practice. You can't help but be inspired by the examples in the book of great advocates performing at their very peak.

Lyons analyses what it is about these great advocates that sets them apart and explores what methods and approaches they used (and avoided using) that made them so successful.

The book covers all aspects of advocacy including presentation skills and the qualities of good advocates, ethics and professional conduct, and case analysis. It also provides very practical 'nuts and bolts' advice about preparing motions, written submissions and preparing and examining witnesses. There is also detailed practical advice and guidance on addressing court and making oral submissions.

Lyons' guide to case analysis is the best I have read, and I can't recommend it highly enough.

Similarly, Lyons' treatment of ethics and professional conduct condenses sometimes elusive concepts into an accessible guide that could be readily applied on the fly in a court or other setting where decisions have to be made quickly and under pressure.

At a time like this when many of us are working at home and are tiring of Netflix series or tuning in to the 24-hour Covid-19 updates, you could be reading this great little book and dreaming of future court room glories. So why not buy a copy and throw it into bed and jump in after it.

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