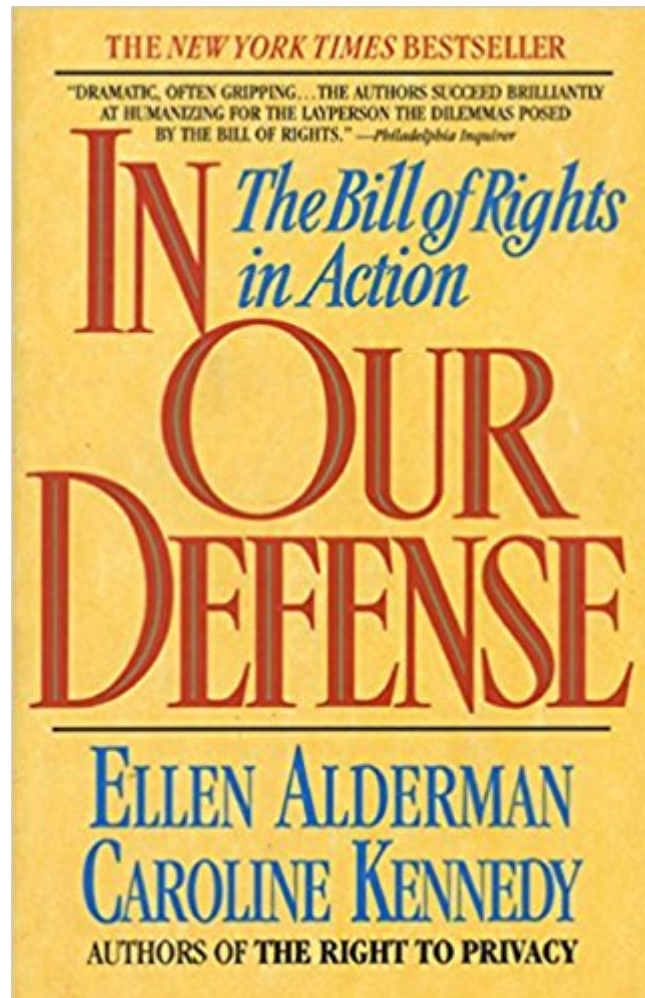




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In Our Defense: The Bill Of Rights In Action



Synopsis

We The PeopleThe Bill of Rights defines and defends the freedoms we enjoy as Americans -- from the right to bear arms to the right to a civil jury. Using the dramatic true stories of people whose lives have been deeply affected by such issues as the death penalty and the right to privacy, attorneys Ellen Alderman and Caroline Kennedy reveal how the majestic principles of the Bill of Rights have taken shape in the lives of ordinary people, as well as the historic and legal significance of each amendment. In doing so, they shed brilliant new light on this visionary document, which remains as vital and as controversial today as it was when a great nation was newly born.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

YA-- Alderman and Kennedy have taken the Bill of Rights and made it breathe. Their book considers 20 or so Supreme Court cases, the verdicts of which pivot on one of the first Ten Amendments to the U. S. Constitution. The cases chosen are not the landmark, precedent-setting ones with which most people are familiar. Instead, readers will find normal people who, because of circumstance, victimization, or character flaws, end up having their stories studied by the highest court in the land. As the authors acknowledge, "It is a fair summary of history to say that the safeguards of liberty have frequently been forged in controversies involving not very nice people." Several life histories read more like soap operas and B-movies than a law text. The writing is clear, direct, and often poignant. There are photographs of some of the protagonists that add to the down-to-earth character of this study. Finally, it is entertaining.- Vicki Fox, R. E. Lee High School, Springfield, VACopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or

unavailable edition of this title.

The authors use fascinating accounts of real-life controversies to introduce the general reader to the Bill of Rights. Nineteen vignettes illuminate virtually all rights guarantees and demonstrate their contemporary relevance. Of particular interest are the stories about the development of public land held sacred by Native Americans (First Amendment) and the attempt to protect minors testifying in molestation cases (Sixth Amendment). Although the authors emphasize the human side of the Bill of Rights rather than its judicial interpretation, their legal analysis is sound, and the extensive notes and bibliography provide direction for further research. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 9/15/90.- G. Alan Tarr, Rutgers Univ., Camden, N.J. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bought this product for a class. Product arrived fine, had all pages and was in good shape,

Very good.

This is a well-written explanation of the Bill of Rights which is primarily for the layman. The authors take each amendment separately and present an actual case from start to finish. They even include a picture of the people involved. I would like to see this book used in high school social studies classes. In Our Defense is informative, very readable and an important addition to the average citizen's understanding of our Constitution.

Very good!

The legal process is complex to most average citizens, so this book offers an explanation of the process for challenges and decisions based on our Bill of Rights. It is an important resource for those studying or thinking about what happens in our court system, and why it happens as it does. A valuable reference for home or school libraries.

This book talks about some of the Amendments that comprise the Bill of Rights. The case examples are rich with factual detail, rationale for the court decisions and also includes, in some cases, post litigation results. The book is, at times, cluttered with interesting but nonessential facts. Other than that, it was a book that I enjoyed reading through one time and then going back to do the school

assignments for my paralegal class. If you care about your Constitutional rights, you should read this book!

Love it!

The book has a great way of detailing the cases so that they seem so real, and you can relate to the so well. The price was extremely reasonable, and in great condition. This book provides some of the best background on famous cases I've ever seen.

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