



Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture

W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture

W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman

Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman

Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom explains what makes stories believable and how ordinary people connect complex legal arguments and evidence presented in trials to assess guilt and innocence. The explanation takes the core elements of narrative—the who, what, where, when, how, why—and shows how average people who hear hundreds of stories every day use the connections between these elements to assess credibility.

A series of simple experiments outside the courtroom provides evidence for the explanation, showing that there is little relationship between the actual truth of a story and the degree to which the story is believed to be true by an audience of random listeners not familiar with the teller. So, how do jurors make a particular legal judgment? Based on courtroom observation, trial transcripts, and credibility experiments, Bennett and Feldman create a method of diagramming stories that shows exactly what makes some stories more believable than others. Prosecutors and defense attorneys can use this method of analyzing stories to weigh the strategies and tactics available to them; scholars can use it to assess the process of legal judgment.

Now in its Second Edition, this much-cited resource adds a new preface by the authors, as well as new forewords from divergent perspectives. From his experience in law practice, William S. Bailey notes that the authors “adapt a broad structural framework of storytelling to the criminal trial context, making it come alive in the dynamic real world courtroom environment.” Law-and-society scholar Anna-Maria Marshall writes that the book’s “emphasis on storytelling will resonate with scholars studying legal consciousness, where narrative plays an important theoretical and methodological role. ... This new edition will be a welcome addition to the Law and Society community.”

"*Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom* is as timely as it was when this classic was first published. Here Bennett and Feldman provide great insight into the importance of storytelling as a basis of justice in American criminal trials. It deserves very wide readership."

— Elizabeth F. Loftus

Distinguished Professor, University of California, Irvine

Author, *Eyewitness Testimony* (1996)

"This classic law and society study on the power of legal stories is a rich and compelling empirical analysis of the dynamics of story construction in trials. The book remains an essential resource for law students, litigators, academics, and any others who wish to understand the interpretive significance of the stories told in the courtroom."

— Jeannine Bell

Professor of Law and Neizer Faculty Fellow,

Indiana University Maurer School of Law — Bloomington

Author, *Hate Thy Neighbor* (2013)

Part of the *Classics of Law & Society* Series from Quid Pro Books.

 [Download Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice a ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman

From reader reviews:

Alejandra Dunlap:

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each book has different aim or maybe goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are really reading whatever they have because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Consider the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book if they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will require this Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture.

Wilhelmina Kane:

Is it anyone who having spare time then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture can be the respond to, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

Guadalupe Baum:

As a scholar exactly feel bored for you to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library or to make summary for some e-book, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's spirit or real their hobby. They just do what the educator want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring and can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture can make you sense more interested to read.

Rachel Chaney:

Reserve is one of source of expertise. We can add our expertise from it. Not only for students but also native or citizen want book to know the update information of year to year. As we know those textbooks have many advantages. Beside many of us add our knowledge, also can bring us to around the world. By the book Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture we can acquire more advantage. Don't that you be creative people? For being creative person must like to read a book. Simply choose the best book that ideal with your aim. Don't always be doubt to change your life with this book Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture. You can more appealing than now.

**Download and Read Online Reconstructing Reality in the
Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture W. Lance
Bennett, Martha S. Feldman #FRYSWU4K5JP**

Read *Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture* by W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman for online ebook

Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture by W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read *Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture* by W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman books to read online.

Online *Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture* by W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman ebook PDF download

***Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture* by W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman Doc**

***Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture* by W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman Mobipocket**

***Reconstructing Reality in the Courtroom: Justice and Judgment in American Culture* by W. Lance Bennett, Martha S. Feldman EPub**