



May It Please the Court: The Most Significant Oral Arguments Made Before the Supreme Court Since 1955

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Until The New Press first published *May It Please the Court* in 1993, few Americans knew that every case argued before the Supreme Court since 1955 had been recorded. The original book-and-tape set was a revelation to readers and reviewers, quickly becoming a bestseller and garnering praise across the nation.

May It Please the Court includes both live recordings and transcripts of oral arguments in twenty-three of the most significant cases argued before the Supreme Court in the second half of the twentieth century. This edition makes the recordings available on an MP3 audio CD. Through the voices of some of the nation's most important lawyers and justices, including Thurgood Marshall, Archibald Cox, and Earl Warren, it offers a chance to hear firsthand our justice system at work, in the highest court of the land.

Cases included: *Gideon v. Wainwright* (right to counsel) *Abington School District v. Schempp* (school prayer) *Miranda v. Arizona* ("the right to remain silent") *Roe v. Wade* (abortion rights) *Edwards v. Aguillard* (teaching "creationism") *Regents v. Bakke* (reverse discrimination) *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (compulsory schooling for the Amish) *Tinker v. Des Moines* (Vietnam protest in schools) *Texas v. Johnson* (flag burning) *New York Times v. United States* (Pentagon Papers) *Cox v. Louisiana* (civil rights demonstrations) *Communist Party v. Subversive Activities Control Board* (freedom of association) *Terry v. Ohio* ("stop and frisk" by police) *Gregg v. Georgia* (capital punishment) *Cooper v. Aaron* (Little Rock school desegregation) *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States* (public accommodations) *Palmer v. Thompson* (swimming pool integration) *Loving v. Virginia* (interracial marriage) *San Antonio v. Rodriguez* (equal funding for public schools) *Bowers v. Hardwick* (homosexual rights)

Baker v. Carr (“one person, one vote”) *United States v. Nixon* (Watergate tapes)
DeShaney v. Winnebago County (child abuse)

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This remarkable book and audiocassette combination has already received much notice, due, ironically, to the legalities involved over the use of archival sources. Network television and National Public Radio have reported on the controversy, which should serve to increase public interest in these recordings of 23 landmark cases argued before the Supreme Court since 1955. Introductory material and other narration is provided by Peter Irons of the Earl Warren Bill of Rights Project of the University of California. Listeners are allowed a glimpse of modern history as never before; the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam, Watergate, and various other seminal social/moral/ethical disputes are played out in succinct, precise arguments. The sound of the actual history-making cases is thrilling. The accompanying hardcover book contains the text of each argument. This is a "must have" for law, academic, and large public libraries. - *Reilly Reagan, Putnam Cty. Lib., Cookeville, Tenn.*

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Review

"One of the most effective teaching tools available." —*The Washington Post*

"A front-row seat in America's most powerful courtroom, where very, very few have had the opportunity to sit." —*American Bar Association Journal*

"A treasure trove . . . that provides insight into the Supreme Court and the judicial process that is otherwise available only to those who find themselves in Washington, D.C., at just the right time." —*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

"A strong and direct whiff of history." —*The New York Times Book Review*

About the Author

Peter H. Irons is emeritus professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of numerous books on the Supreme Court and constitutional litigation, including *Jim Crow's Children: The Broken Promise of the Brown Decision* and *A People's History of the Supreme Court*. He is a co-editor of *May It Please the Court: The Most Significant Oral Arguments Made Before the Supreme Court Since 1955* (with Stephanie Guitton), *May It Please the Court: The First Amendment: Live Recordings and Transcripts of the Oral Arguments Made Before the Supreme Court in Sixteen Key First Amendment Cases*, and *May It Please the Court: Courts, Kids, and the Constitution: Live Recordings and Transcripts of Sixteen Supreme Court Oral Arguments on the Constitutional Rights of Students and Teachers*, all published by The New Press. He has also contributed to numerous law reviews and other journals. He was chosen in 1988 as the first Raoul Wallenberg Distinguished Visiting Professor of Human Rights at Rutgers University. He has been invited to lecture on constitutional law and civil liberties at the law schools of Harvard, Yale, Berkeley, and Stanford and at more than twenty other schools. In addition to his academic work, Irons has been active in public affairs. He is a practicing civil rights and liberties attorney and was lead counsel in the 1980s in the successful effort to reverse the World War II criminal convictions of Japanese Americans who had challenged the curfew and relocation orders. He was also elected to two terms on the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Stephanie Guitton is a graduate of the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program at the University of California, Berkeley. She has a law degree from the University of Poitiers in France.

Users Review

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