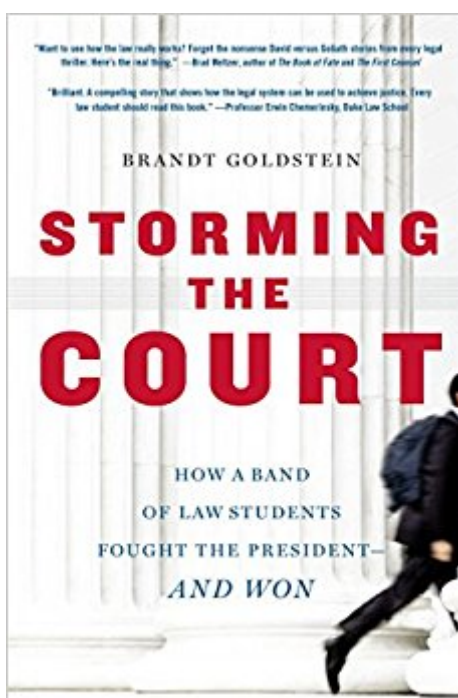


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# Storming The Court: How A Band Of Law Students Fought The President--and Won



## Synopsis

In 1992, three hundred innocent Haitian men, women, and children who had qualified for political asylum in the United States were detained at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba -- and told they might never be freed. Charismatic democracy activist Yvonne Pascal and her fellow refugees had no contact with the outside world, no lawyers, and no hope . . . until a group of inspired Yale Law School students vowed to free them. Pitting the students and their untested professor Harold Koh against Kenneth Starr, the Justice Department, the Pentagon, and Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, this real-life legal thriller takes the reader from the halls of Yale and the federal courts of New York to the slums of Port-au-Prince and the windswept hills of Guantánamo Bay and ultimately to the U.S. Supreme Court. Written with grace and passion, *Storming the Court* captures the emotional highs and despairing lows of a legal education like no other -- a high-stakes courtroom campaign against the White House in the name of the greatest of American values: freedom.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1992 a team of Yale law students and other human rights activists sought to enjoin the government from detaining Haitian refugees indefinitely at Guantánamo Bay, without charges or access to counsel. Lawyer Goldstein tells their story with authority: he was a classmate of many of the student activists, although not a participant in the case. Two of the primary characters are Harold Koh, the dedicated, even driven, Yale professor who led the legal fight, and the courageous, pseudonymous "Yvonne Pascal," who emerged as a spokeswoman for the Haitian refugees.

Goldstein's sympathies are wholeheartedly with the Haitians and those working on their behalf. A greater effort to articulate the government's argument would have improved the book and made the case's mixed outcome more understandable. After protracted litigation in federal court and the U.S. Supreme Court, the Haitians were discharged from Gitmo, but the policy questions involving the reach of the government's power were resolved in the government's favor. This is a timely (given the issue of detaining terror suspects today) and passionate account, but would have benefited from less hero worship of the activists and less demonizing of the government. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Goldstein has written a compelling story with contemporary significance that thus far has failed to capture the public attention. In 1992, a group of Yale law students began a heroic and substantial effort to free 300 Haitian refugees held by the U.S. at Guantanamo Bay. The students plodded through this arduous process alone, often risking their goal of high-end employment, and found a way to take on the president and the U.S. government. And they won. This story has a ring of similarity with the Northwestern University journalism students who helped to free some death-row convicts and spark a moratorium on the death penalty in Illinois. But a major difference is the lack of public awareness of the law---student efforts, which may reflect a greater discomfort with the issues involved. These 300 detainees were all black Haitians, men, women, and children--all HIV-positive. The Haitians have since all been granted political asylum in the U.S. This story provides an interesting backdrop to discussions about the application of U.S. law to persons held by the U.S. at Guantanamo Bay. Vernon Ford Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When my law school registration packet came in the mail and I saw that in addition to the \$1,000 worth of required books I needed for my classes there was an additional novel that I was required to read before orientation, I was a little unnerved. My initial plan was to hold off reading until a few nights before my orientation so the contents of *Storming the Court* was fresh in my mind and I could engage in discussion questions with confidence. When the book came in the mail, I figured I would do a quick skim of the first few pages just to see what the story was about and then I would put it on the bookshelf until August. Well, the "quick skim" turned into an all-nighter filled with a few cups of coffee and a lot of quick page turning. The book reads like a David Baldacci thriller. There is so much action, drama and real life human emotion in this book that it was impossible to put down. I

refuse to put plot details in my book reviews but the greatest part of this book is how relatable the characters were to myself. They reinforced why I wanted to go to law school in the first place- to help people. This was a fantastic book and I really hope that you read it whether it's required by your school or not, whether you're a law student or not, or whether or not you think you would or wouldn't like a legal thriller. CHECK IT OUT!

I really enjoyed this book. The story is compelling and I could not stop reading. In addition, it is written in a fascinating way, with two parallel stories that at some point intertwine. It demonstrates the reality of the courts and the influence of politics. I recommend it.

I love this book. The story itself and the story-telling is truly exceptional. Both inspiring (the Law students and the Haitian refugees) and enraging (the United States government), the book is an absolute page-turner! I have personally bought about 20 copies of the book and given it to friends and colleagues, and I will continue to do so. You just can't go wrong with Storming the Court! Thanks Brandt Goldstein, keep 'em coming!

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Absolutely loved this non-fiction book! I recommend it to everyone. It tells the story of a group of Yale Law School students who work with lawyers to bring a case against the federal government for their treatment of Haitian refugees in the 80's.

I had to read this book for a class assignment. It's a great book!!!

Good

A well written summary of a unique event in YLS history. I work with several of these people and was thrilled to read the story of this event.

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