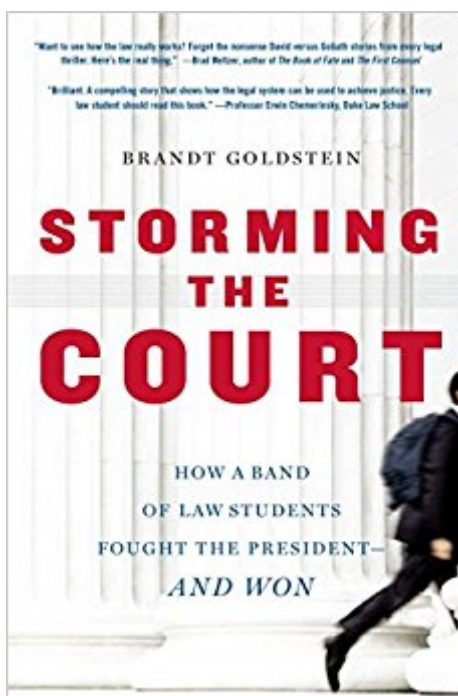


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# Storming The Court: How A Band Of Yale Law Students Sued The President--and Won



## Synopsis

A tale more riveting than fiction, *Storming the Court* is the true story of idealistic law students who challenged the United States government in a battle for freedom and human rights that went all the way to the Supreme Court -- and resonates today more than ever. In 1992, three hundred innocent men, women, and children who had qualified for political asylum in the United States were forced into a detention camp at the American naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and told they might never be freed. *Storming the Court* takes readers inside this modern-day atrocity to tell the tale of Yvonne Pascal -- a young, charismatic activist -- and other Haitian refugees who had fled their violent homeland only to end up prisoners at Guantánamo. They had no lawyers, no contact with the outside world, and no hope...except for a band of students at Yale Law School fifteen hundred miles away. Led by Harold Koh, a gifted but untested law professor, these remarkable twentysomethings waged a legal war against two U.S. presidents to defend the Constitution and the principles symbolized by the Statue of Liberty. It was an education in law unlike any other. With the refugees' lives at stake, the students threw aside classes and career plans to fight an army of government attorneys in a case so politically volatile that the White House itself intervened in the legal strategy. Featuring a real-life cast that includes Kenneth Starr and other top Justice Department officials, U.S. marines, radical human-rights lawyers, and Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, *Storming the Court* follows the students from the classrooms at Yale to the prison camp at Guantánamo to the federal courts in New York and Washington as they struggle to save Yvonne Pascal and her fellow Haitian refugees. At a time when the treatment of post-9/11 Guantánamo detainees has been challenged in the public arena and the courts, this book traces the origins of the legal battle over America's use of the naval base as a prison and illuminates the troubling ways that politics can influence legal decisions. Above all, though, *Storming the Court* is the David-and-Goliath story of a group of passionate law students who took on their government in the name of the greatest of American values: freedom.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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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