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Book Review of "America's Lawyer-Presidents: From Law Office to Oval Office," edited by Norman Gross

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his account of an international child custody dispute that he handled. What distinguishes this book from other lawyers' collections is Boies's patient interest in educating readers on points of law and in taking them through his courtroom work, such as his skewering of Bill Gates, question by question. He describes in detail his trial strategies and uses trial transcripts to good effect. Written in a breezy style, the book is fascinating reading for lawyers, whether real or armchair. Recommended for all collections.—**Harry Charles, St. Louis**

FELBER, RON. *Il Dottore: The Double Life of a Mafia Doctor. Barricade. Oct. 2004.*

c.288p. ISBN 1-56980-278-5. \$24.95. CRIME
The gang's all here—from Mob leaders John Gotti and Paul "Big Paul" Castellano to mob soldiers Sammy "The Bull" Gravano to crusading Mob prosecutor Rudy Giuliani and Elliot Litner, MD. Litner, "Il Dottore," grew up the son of immigrants in the Bronx to become a highly regarded cardiac surgeon by day and a Mob-funded sex and gambling addict by night who performed favors for his childhood friends and their associates. His story includes some wild middle-of-the-night tales relating how Litner was whisked away to tend an ill or injured godfather or loved one. Threaded throughout Litner's story, as told to Felber (*The Privacy War*), is a brief history of the "Commission," the Mob organization in New York City ultimately dismantled by Giuliani. Litner's dual worlds collided when he had to choose between saving a patient and his loyalty to the Mob, which wanted to assure that the patient (Giuliani's key witness) would not survive bypass surgery. A fun, breezy read (and a good choice for public libraries), though those interested in the history of the Mafia in New York would have preferred a more in-depth approach. ["Dateline NBC" will feature the doctor's story in October.—Ed.]—**Karen Sandlin Silverman, CFAR-Ctr. for Applied Research, Philadelphia**

POLITICAL SCIENCE

America's Lawyer-Presidents: From Law Office to Oval Office. Northwestern Univ. 2004. c.364p. ed. by Norman Gross. illus. index. ISBN 0-8101-1218-3. \$39.95.

POLITICS

Twenty-five of America's 43 Presidents have been lawyers. This book, edited by the director of the American Bar Association's Museum of Law and part of the museum's "America's Lawyer-Presidents Project," attempts to shed light on how the legal experience of these Presidents has affected their performance. Some of these presidents rank among our best (e.g., Thomas Jeffer-

son, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt), while others rank among our worst (e.g., Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, and Richard Nixon). Many practiced law only half-heartedly, using it as a steppingstone to a political career. The individual portraits here are generally good, though some are a bit questionable, as when Irwin F. Gellman downplays Nixon's clearly authenticated criminal involvement in the Watergate scandal. Overall, however, this is an interesting and useful resource. Recommended for all libraries.—**Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles**

GOLDSTEIN, JOSHUA S. *The Real Price of War: How You Pay for the War on Terror.* New York Univ. Sept. 2004. c.224p. ISBN 0-8147-3161-9. \$24.95. POLITICS

Goldstein (Watson Inst. of International Studies, Brown Univ.) is not an economist but a political scientist who takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of war. Here he argues that the war on terrorism is much more expensive than we have been told and that we must spend more now to win it quickly or we will pay far more in the future to do so. In his review of the costs of war, Goldstein includes actual government expenditures, the indirect costs to private businesses, and the costs to society in lost opportunities. He estimates that the real cost of the war for the average household—one with an income between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year—is \$500 a month and that the total cost to the country is \$600 billion a year. Yet Goldstein contends that we must spend more to cover military actions, improved homeland security, and programs in foreign aid and reconstruction, e.g., targeting areas of poverty abroad (the breeding ground of terrorists). Economists might take issue with his calculations, while others will suggest that his demands are politically unrealistic. The question remains, What price are we willing to pay to preserve our way of life? Recommended for all public libraries.—**Thomas J. Baldino, Wilkes Univ., PA**

MARTIN, BRADLEY K. *Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader: North Korea and the Kim Dynasty.* Thomas Dunne Bks: St. Martin's. Oct. 2004. c.880p. photogs. index. ISBN 0-312-32221-6. \$29.95. INT AFFAIRS

This massive study of North Korea embraces its political and economic history over the last 70 years; the lives of its leaders, Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong Il; its diplomatic relations with South Korea, Japan, China, and the United States since 1945; its current crises regarding nuclear weapons and food shortages; and memories of the

author's visit to North Korea in 1979. Martin, a former bureau chief for the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*, has much to offer. But his study's bulk is a curse as well as a blessing. The need for a lengthy chapter on the sexual exploits of North Korea's leaders is questionable. The huge amount of detail about a little-known state and culture is a welcome addition, but it is marred by personal impressions that are 25 years old, data from a plethora of secondary sources, and considerable uncorroborated testimony from North Korean defectors. Nevertheless, the discerning reader can gain much from this work. Recommended for all libraries.—**John F. Riddick, Central Michigan Univ. Lib., Mt. Pleasant**

NICHOLS, JOHN. *Dick: The Man Who Is President.* New Pr., dist. by Norton. Sept. 2004. c.256p. ISBN 1-56584-840-3. \$23.95. POLITICS

It is not difficult to understand why the publisher of this biography of Vice President Dick Cheney promotes it as "highly unauthorized." Reminiscent of Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9-11*, it is certainly not flattering; nor is it fair and balanced. Nichols, the Washington correspondent for the *Nation*, seems less interested in presenting a thorough treatment of Cheney's life than in raising questions—many of them excellent and valid but some artificial—about Cheney's political beliefs and his motivation and qualification for public office. There are gaps in this account, e.g., Cheney's earliest years, college years at the University of Wyoming, and time in Congress, which make it difficult to regard the book as a serious biography. Yet in this campaign season, many readers will appreciate the light Nichols has shed on Cheney, a self-described behind-the-scenes player who has enormous influence on the President. Given the highly partisan nature of this book, librarians should base their purchase decision on the sophistication and interests of their readers.—**Thomas J. Baldino, Wilkes Univ., Wilkes-Barre, PA**

PLEASANTS, JULIAN M. *Hanging Chads: The Inside Story of the 2000 Presidential Recount in Florida.* Palgrave Macmillan: St. Martin's. Oct. 2004. c.298p. ISBN 1-4039-6693-1. \$35. POLITICS

This book is essentially a collection of interviews conducted by the author (history, Univ. of Florida) with 11 people involved in the 2000 presidential election, its recount, and the litigation that followed. A lengthy, detailed introduction chronicles the entire saga, from the adoption of the butterfly ballot to the Supreme Court's decision; also included are a table with Florida's vote totals at