

(Free download) Trials of an Expert Witness: Tales of Clinical Neurology and the Law

# Trials of an Expert Witness: Tales of Clinical Neurology and the Law

*Harold L. Klawans*

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**Harold L. Klawans : Trials of an Expert Witness: Tales of Clinical Neurology and the Law** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trials of an Expert Witness: Tales of Clinical Neurology and the Law:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Klawans was one of my professors in medical school and was possibly the best teacher I ever had. By Montana I just read this book again after a long delay. Dr. Klawans was one of my professors in medical school and was possibly the best teacher I ever had. He is certainly one main reason that I went into neurology. The same style of teaching that kept us entranced as medical students is apparent in his writing, too. I sent this book to my sister, who is a malpractice defense attorney. I thought that she might enjoy it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Craig Peterson Great read. Super interesting 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic MD's eye view of medicolegal issues By A Customer As a newly-trained neurologist, I was fascinated by these tales of neurology and the law, from both plaintiff's and defense's viewpoint. Though the stories are dated, the general principles are all too true, and teach physician and patient alike why lawsuits occur.

"This collection of 19 provocatively titled stories presents dramatic encounters in what Klawans calls 'the arena of

adversarial law, the battlefield of winning and losing. Each depicts a patient as a victim of an improper diagnosis or treatment: a pregnant woman's dehydration is mistreated with excessive glucose, which locks her into a permanent coma; a 62-year-old woman is convinced by a neurosurgeon that immediate surgery is the only means of avoiding a stroke, then suffers one as the result of the surgery; a meek, family-oriented, overworked attorney is charged with killing a young girl, apparently in his sleep. In each of the cases he presents, Klawans illustrates that asking the right questions is as critical in the practice of medicine as it is in the practice of law."

From Publishers Weekly Chicago-area neurologist Klawans ( *Toscanini's Fumble* ) is not unwilling to blow the whistle on incompetent colleagues in the medical profession, but he is equally ready to rush to the defense of a doctor accused of malpractice on dubious grounds. Often called upon to testify as an expert witness in neurological cases, here he takes a piercing look at some of them--instances of misdiagnoses, of failure to consider diagnoses that led to complications, of drug companies charged with suppressing information and of hospitals that in effect killed patients. He also offers observations on the cases of Jack Ruby and Ezra Pound, in which he was not involved. Klawan's clipped, minimalist writing style strengthens the book's inherent appeal. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This casebook of a prominent Chicago neurology professor will no doubt be compared to Oliver Sacks's *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* (Summit Bks., 1987). Like Sacks, Klawans presents a series of extremely interesting neurological cases, but these deal solely with the law, drawn from his experiences as an expert witness in malpractice cases. Having testified both for the defense and the prosecution, Klawans offers a birds-eye view of the relationship between medicine and the law--two very different worlds that often misunderstand each other. He discusses how doctors can make misdiagnoses and how malpractice suits are prosecuted. Klawans also explains the role of the expert witness and the reason neurology is often considered the most "intellectual" of the medical specialties. Very highly recommended. See also Elizabeth Loftus and Katherine Ketcham's *Witness for the Defense*, below.--Ed.- Debra Berlanstein, Towson State Univ., Baltimore Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. "" "" ... a series of witty and often chilling vignettes"" -- San Francisco Chronicle ""This fiery offering by Chicago's writing neurologist comes on like gangbusters."" -- Chicago Tribune ""As a novelist and a professor of neurology, Klawans...knows how to balance the technical with the emotive...The result is close to being the most fun you can have while reading a neurolegal book."" -- Financial Times ""... features the kind of pivotal courtroom scenes usually found in fiction."" -- Orlando Sentinel ""The point of each tale is clear; the telling is done in his not-familiar, crisp style...surehandedly leading the reader along. Although neurologists who read the book will have no great difficulty with the diagnostic problems that Klawans addresses, he discloses them in a way that requires attention; he sets little traps and gives his colleagues a chance to think with him, providing us with an added satisfaction not available to the nonmedical reader."" -- Archives of Neurology" (Archives of Neurology 2010-05-03)