

## The Art of Justice: The Judge's Perspective

Ruth Herz



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This book presents a unique and intriguing collection of drawings of courtroom scenes. Entering the courtroom wearing his robe, Judge Pierre Cavellat literally had a secret up his sleeve. Hidden in it were pens and pencils which he used to sketch the scenes he observed from his bench during a trial. Throughout a 40 year judicial career in one of France's more important regional appellate courts, Cavellat produced hundreds of revealing drawings and paintings of court scenes, depicting the proceedings, as well as the main actors: the prosecutors, defense counsels, his fellow judges, the defendants, witnesses, policemen, the general public, as well as the courtroom itself and its architecture. The resulting vivid and uncensored impressions give an unprecedented insight into how a judge perceives his profession and the institution of justice as a whole. Given the scarcity of written autobiographies by judges, as well as their reticence to expose their inner feelings and thinking, the images reveal, in a candid and immediate fashion, the deeply hidden emotions, ambiguities, and fantasies of a judge going about his work. The author, a judge herself, interprets the images through the lens of her own judicial experience, exploring how judges think and act and how their thinking is constructed through their education, professional training, gender, and class. In doing so, she exposes how personal background, history, and experience play an additional, sometimes conflicting, role in 'judgecraft.' While relevant to both practitioners and students of law, this book should also have an appeal to a wider public that seeks an insight into the world of the court.

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