



WALTER OLSON is an author and critic whose acclaimed books—*The Litigation Explosion*, *The Excuse Factory*, and *The Rule of Lawyers*—have changed the way we think about the American legal system. A senior fellow at the Cato Institute, he is a frequent contributor to the *Wall Street Journal* and other leading newspapers and has written columns for Great Britain's Times Online and *Reason*. His online work includes Overlawyered.com, widely cited as the oldest blog about law.

Cover Design by Tamaye Perry
Author photo © Cato Institute
Cover photo © Tetra Images/Corbis



ENCOUNTER BOOKS
900 Broadway, Suite 601
New York, New York 10003-1239
www.encounterbooks.com

OLSON



SCHOOLS FOR MISRULE

"Law schools are a hatchery of bad, anti-free-market ideas. These self-dealing professors idealize litigation and impress upon their students a taste for centralized power, thereby strangling our freedom and American entrepreneurship. Olson shines a light on their destructive social engineering."

—**JOHN STOSSEL**, Emmy award-winning consumer reporter and investigative journalist; host of "Stossel" (FOX Business Network); former co-anchor of "20/20" (ABC)

"With clear and compelling stories, Walter Olson unfolds a morality play of what happens when law goes too far. *Schools for Misrule* is an important critique of how social policy litigation has corroded democracy and contributed to public polarization and the fiscal crisis."

—**PHILIP K. HOWARD**, author of *The Death of Common Sense*; founder, Common Good

"While the public loves to bash lawyers, judges, and politicians, law professors have escaped all blame. Olson provides the inside story of how progressive political ideology became the reigning orthodoxy of elite legal education, providing the legal theories responsible for an overweening government committed to mandating, prohibiting, or regulating every aspect of American life in the "public interest." I wish I could say he exaggerates but, sadly, the legal foundation of the road to serfdom was devised by law professors."

—**RANDY E. BARNETT**, Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Legal Theory, Georgetown Law Center; author of *Restoring the Lost Constitution: The Presumption of Liberty*



\$25.95
ISBN 978-1-59403-233-2
5 2595 >
9 781594 032332



WALTER OLSON

SCHOOLS FOR MISRULE

Legal Academia and an Overlawyered America

LAW / LEGAL EDUCATION

US \$25.95 / CAN \$32.95

From Barack Obama (Harvard and Chicago) to Bill and Hillary Clinton (Yale), many of our national leaders today emerge from the rarefied air of the nation's top law schools. The ideas taught there in one generation often wind up shaping national policy in the next.

The trouble is, as Walter Olson explains in this book, our elite law schools keep churning out ideas that are catastrophically bad for America. Rights to sue anyone over anything in class actions? Hatched in legal academia. Court orders mandating mass release of prison inmates? Ditto. The movement for slavery reparations? Court takeovers of school funding, at taxpayers' expense? It's not by coincidence, Olson argues, that these bad ideas all tend to confer more power on the law schools' own graduates. In the overlawyered society that results, they are the ones who become the real rulers. And the worst is yet to come, the book demonstrates, as a fast-rising movement in the law schools demands that sovereignty over U.S. legal disputes be handed over to international law and transnational courts.

Some imagine that the law schools possess a finer, purer moral sensitivity than the everyday America outside their walls. ("Welcome to the Republic of Conscience!" Yale Law dean Harold Koh announced to incoming students.) But as this book shows, the pipe dream of training philosopher-monarchs not only leads to one policy disaster after another, but distracts law schools from the most useful function they can serve: training competent, ethical and suitably humble lawyers for tomorrow.