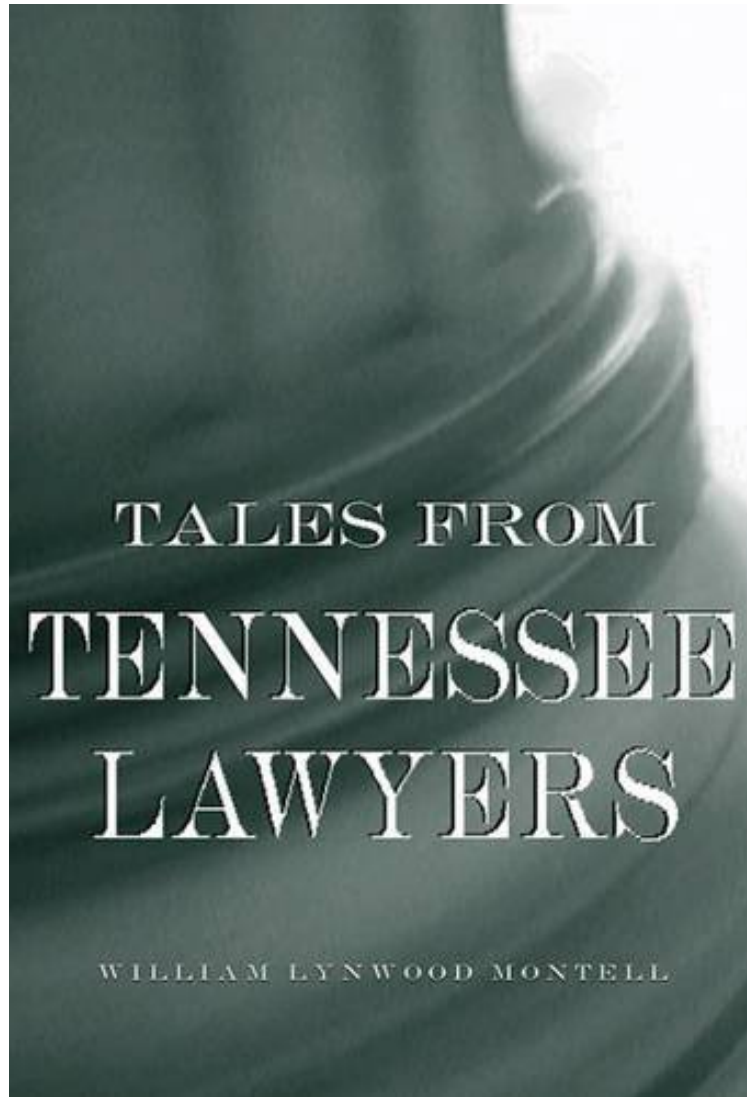


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Tales from Tennessee Lawyers

William Lynwood Montell

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William Lynwood Montell : Tales from Tennessee Lawyers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tales from Tennessee Lawyers:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Satisfied...By JS MooreBeing a native of Kingsport, I bought this set for the Lacy West stories within. He was an exceptional attorney in East Tennessee. The fella who gathered these tales did a very good job getting yarns from all over Tennessee and not just a particular area. I will buy his other collections for this reason.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. YAAYBy Chris SeatonI LIKE DIS BUK IT IZ GUD PLZ BIE IT U LIKEY MUCHO THANK U FORE READIN MY REVIEW BYE

Perhaps no one has keener insight into human nature than the small-town trial lawyer. All but lost in an era of corporate law firms and specialized practice, this charismatic figure was once at the political center of a community and was the holder of its many secrets. A small town attorney's only specialization was the town itself. Serving as both defender and accuser, these lawyers witnessed communities and individuals at their best and worst. Men and women of the legal profession often exert influence in seemingly small realms, but they play an important role in the lives of many people and help shape the American legal system. Veteran oral historian and folklorist William Lynwood Montell has brought together a fascinating collection of tales gathered from lawyers and judges throughout the Volunteer State. Montell searched small towns and cities across Tennessee for the law's older and middle age practitioners, and he shares the wealth of their experience in *Tales from Tennessee Lawyers*. These stories are recorded exactly as told by the lawyers themselves, and they reveal candid and unusual snapshots of the legal system—both past and present. With a tape recorder and an ear for detail, Montell uncovers events and lives ranging from the commonplace to the extraordinary. A man resorts to prostitution to alleviate the debt brought about by divorce proceedings. Identical twins are tried for a string of murders. A convict flees his trial by stealing the judge's car. A prosecutor tries the nation's first school-shooting case. Judge George Balitsaris, a former University of Tennessee football player, escorts a special prosecutor out of a notorious rape trial as a precaution after the defendant's family issues threats. These and similar stories illustrate the strange, complex cases argued daily from Tennessee's largest cities to its smallest towns. Far more than just a collection of lawyer jokes, these recollections shed light on the tense and often dangerous lives of those who work to see that all receive fair representation and treatment in court.

"An entertaining book. . . . Collects jokes, musings, and anecdotes from more than 30 Tennessee lawyers whose collective careers span more than 50 years right up to the present day." (Baton Rouge, LA) *Advocate Magazine* "This lively book of true stories, some humorous and some horrifying, will capture your attention from beginning to end." Calvin Dickinson, author of *Rural Life and Culture in the Upper Cumberland* "Far more than a collection of lawyer jokes, *Tales from Tennessee Lawyers* recounts the most insightful, entertaining and occasionally, heartbreaking stories." *Cleveland Daily Banner* "Acquaints us with interesting professionals in the law, most of them good storytellers, and what they think about their profession and its ability to bring wrong-doers to justice." Loyal Jones, author of *Faith and Meaning in the Southern Uplands* "*Tales from Tennessee Lawyers* is not only an excellent example of what can be learned from interviewing lawyers about their profession; these first-hand accounts also indicate how lawyers view other lawyers and judges and the people they serve." Ronald L. Baker, Editor of *Folklore Historian* "Heard any good lawyer stories lately? *Tales from Tennessee Lawyers* is filled with them." *Commercial Appeal, Commercial Appeal* "This is a delightful book and will be enjoyed by anyone, lawyer or not, who enjoys a good story." *Tennessee Bar Journal* "The gift of gab is part and parcel to a lawyer's bag of tricks, so it's no wonder William Lynwood Montell has filled volumes with anecdotes from attorneys and judges." *Memphis Daily News* "A collection of real-life lawyer jokes and oddities." *News-Sentinel* "The appeal . . . rests mainly in the stories themselves. . . . They cover a wide range of topics including (among others) courtroom blunders, divorce and adultery, homicide, thievery, sexual and physical abuse, and legal humor." *Western Folklore* About the Author William Lynwood Montell, emeritus professor of folk studies at Western Kentucky University, is the author of several books, including *Tales from Kentucky Lawyers*, *Ghosts across Kentucky*, and *Haunted Houses and Family Ghosts of Kentucky*. He lives in Oakland, Kentucky.