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Book Review: Judge for Yourself: Clarity, Choice, and Action in Your Legal Career

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**Judge for Yourself: Clarity, Choice,
and Action in Your Legal Career**

**By Miriam Bamberger Grogan
& Heather Bradley (Chicago,
IL: ABA, 2006). 100 pgs. \$24.95.
Order, (800) 285-2221.**

*Reviewed by
Rebecca K. Blemberg*

Many lawyers profess to be dissatisfied with their careers. They dislike the type of work they do or the hours they put in or the people with whom they do business. Authors Miriam

Bamberger Grogan and Heather Bradley want to help these dissatisfied lawyers in *Judge for Yourself: Clarity, Choice, and Action in Your Legal Career*.

The book is divided into three sections, and each section tells the story of a lawyer struggling with some type of career dissatisfaction. The lawyers and stories are diverse. Section one is about an attorney who has had a long and satisfying legal career but is concerned about finding job satisfaction in the last two years before mandatory retirement. This same attorney also is concerned

about whether he will enjoy retirement. Section two tells the story of two married attorneys who have demanding careers and young children. These attorneys struggle to balance family and work. Section three is about a new attorney who enjoys her work but does not understand the politics of her law firm or how she should position herself for career advancement.

The stories are interesting, and the lawyers are well-developed, engaging characters. Each attorney receives career-changing advice from someone: a retired judge, a spouse, a career counselor. The advice seems sound in each case, but the way it's presented is somewhat hokey. The "wise characters" pose a series of questions to the attorneys about goals and values. (These same questions are repeated in worksheet form at the end of the book for the reader.)

Despite this awkward device, however, the book does succeed in raising intriguing questions and even presenting thoughtful advice about what lawyers can do to enhance career satisfaction. All lawyers will probably find some wisdom in this book, even if they don't do the worksheets at the end.

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