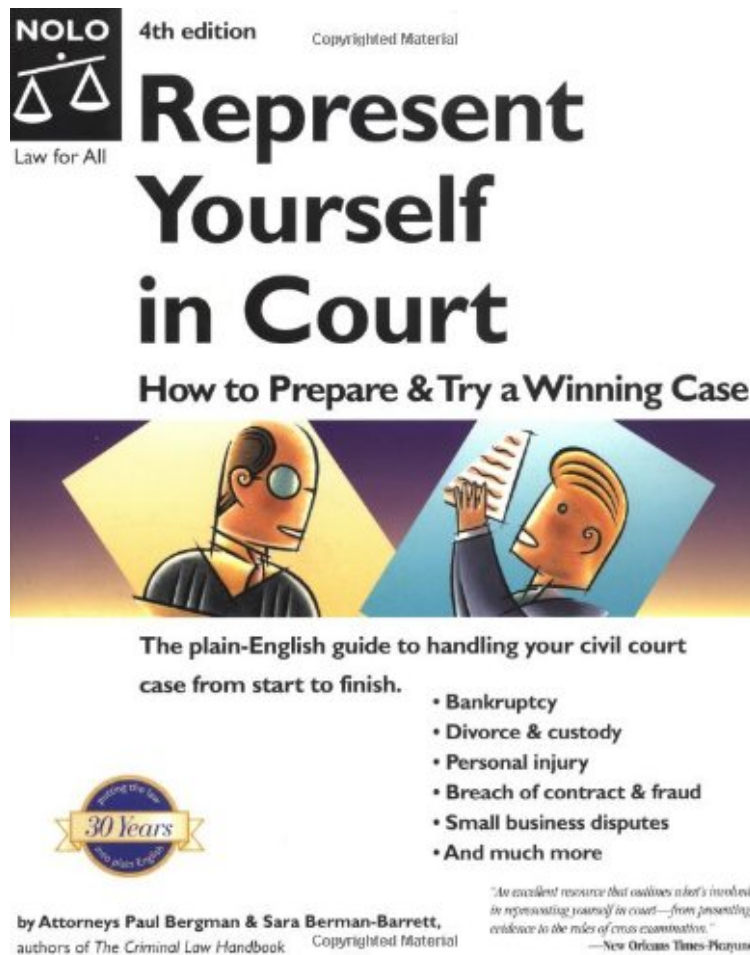


Represent Yourself in Court: How to Prepare and Try a Winning Case

Paul Bergman, Sara J. Berman-Barrett
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Paul Bergman, Sara J. Berman-Barrett : Represent Yourself in Court: How to Prepare and Try a Winning Case before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Represent Yourself in Court: How to Prepare and Try a Winning Case:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This helped me a lot when a nut sued me. Did not work as it should because the courts are corrupt, maybe some Judges are honest.By Delia M. LopezGreat book good info but our court system is so corrupt. Request for Summary Judgement as the law is specific. Paperwork was filed and served Plaintiff had 20 days to respond and they did not. I (defendant) was at the court asking for action almost daily 15 days past the 20 days they had to respond they show up at a pre-trial hearing and the entire farce continues. I paid to have the RFSJ acted on when it was filed and served. Without hiring a lawyer the courts ignore motions. Right to due process? Not. Plaintiff is lying under oath her lawyer KNOWS she is and is causing her to. The Judge has the PROOF on his desk in

front of him that she is lying under oath. It is pointed out she is perjuring herself the lawyer is aiding her in doing so KNOWINGLY and the Judge allows it. Makes me want to vomit just thinking about it. Justice system BULLS*** Just US system for the lawyers it is all about billable hours. The corruption in this country is so bad I am so shocked and sad. 17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Represent Yourself in Court By Dr. Joseph S. Maresca This book gives an understandable rendition of the various legal procedures involved in bringing a major lawsuit into the Courtsystem. It is most helpful in assisting litigants with case organization and presentation. The work explains how to document a case throughout the various phases of a lawsuit with particular emphasis on presentation of exhibits for trial. The work is written in a belles lettres style. It could be read by anyone wanting to understand the litigation process, as well as law students taking courses in Civil Litigation. The book could be useful in organizing a case so that a lawyer could pick it up at a later time. Very often, the details of a claim may not be fully known until the deposition process has been completed. I would supplement this book with the purchase of a Civil Procedure book if the intention is to complete the entire process right through to trial. This work focuses on the documentation you will need to develop in order to prove a case at trial. The work has a good coverage of negotiation strategies. Ultimately, it is in your interest to deal with a lawyer during a formal negotiation in order to ascertain that you've secured a fair deal. It pays to become familiar with a local legal library as a supplement to this text. In addition, you should utilize the internet in order to review similar cases in the various Court jurisdictions relating to your case. Sometimes it pays to talk to a lawyer who has completed a similar case in order to gain perspective on the intricacies of the whole process. This text gives you a good start. It would be most helpful in organizing the type of case that only develops after the deposition process is complete. Early in the litigation, you should do some research in order to identify cases similar to yours that have been decided. The past precedent or stare decisis is very critical to presenting a claim because it encapsules your case into a similar fact pattern consistent with other cases that have been decided by the Courts. It is to your benefit to do legal research in identifying similar cases to your own either by going into the legal libraries yourself, researching the internet or paying a small fee for a legal research firm to identify similar cases as the one you are filing. 33 of 34 people found the following review helpful. A Good, but necessarily limited, intro to the legal system By Scott F. S. Overall, I'd give this a positive rating, but since it's written for all 50 states, it is so broad in its coverage that it makes it difficult to learn about how to pursue your lawsuit in your particular state. I'd suggest reading this book and trying to fill out forms as you go. Pick up the 'local rules' from your own court, and study them for what Bergman doesn't tell you. One thing I will say, though, is that one bit of advice was invaluable...on visiting the court before your motion or case is heard. I did this, and it took a lot of the mystery out of the whole process. By doing this, by the way, I was completely surprised that (in the motion hearings) that most of what took place was pretty much on a par with small claims court, with a few legal latin phrases peppering the give-and-take. Most of the motions I heard consisted of two things: Why one or the other party failed to meet deadlines, and trying to get the other guy's case thrown out before everyone went to trial. One other thing that was also surprising...the opposing lawyers were pretty buddy-buddy with each other. I guess the hostility and animosity that one would associate with a lawsuit pretty much reside only in the parties to the suit themselves. In my appearance, I took it very cool and did not act emotional at all. Let's face it...the court doesn't want to hear it. They just want to get done so they can go to lunch.

You don't have to pay a lawyer upwards of \$200 an hour to represent you in a civil lawsuit! Written in plain English, Represent Yourself in Court breaks down the trial process into easy-to-understand steps so that you can act as your own lawyer -- safely and efficiently. Veteran attorneys Bergman and Berman-Barrett tell you what to say, how to say it, even where to stand when you address the judge and jury. Armed with the simple but thorough instructions in Represent Yourself in Court, you can be heard and taken seriously in any courtroom. And better yet, you'll be well prepared to achieve good results, without having to pay a lawyer's ransom. Learn how to: *file court papers *handle depositions and interrogatories *comply with courtroom procedures *pick a jury *prepare your evidence and line up witnesses *present your opening statement and closing argument *cross-examine hostile witnesses *understand and apply rules of evidence *locate, hire and effectively use expert witnesses *make and respond to your opponent's objections *get limited help from an attorney on an as-needed basis *monitor the work of an attorney if you decide to hire one Whether you are a plaintiff or a defendant, this book will help you confidently handle a divorce, personal injury case, landlord/tenant dispute, breach of contract, small business dispute or any other civil lawsuit. The latest edition provides extensive information on summary judgments.

From Library Journal The nuts and bolts of self-representation in court are presented in this detailed, sensible book. The authors describe the legal process from the investigation of the case through the collection of a judgment, with an emphasis on what happens in the courtroom. Bergman and Berman-Barrett share the procedures and methods a lay person needs to survive in an environment that is not necessarily friendly to nonattorneys. Understanding that in the law the devil is in the details, they take pains to avoid oversimplification, and they do an equally good job of illuminating concepts like burden of proof and procedures like marking and identifying exhibits. The authors highlight important information with icons that alert the reader to a practical suggestion, warn of a potential problem, or refer to

other resources on the subject. Highly recommended for even modest legal self-help collections, including those that already own Robert Schachner's *How and When To Be Your Own Lawyer* (LJ 3/1/93). Joan Pedzich, Harris, Beach Wilcox, Rochester, N.Y. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. Highly recommended for even modest legal self-help collections. -- Library Journal

About the Author Paul Bergman is a Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law and a recipient of a University Distinguished Teaching Award. His recent books include *Reel Justice: The Courtroom Goes to the Movies* (Andrews McMeel); *Trial Advocacy: Inferences, Arguments, Techniques* (with Moore and Binder, West Publishing Co.); and *Represent Yourself In Court and The Criminal Law Handbook* (both with Berman-Barrett, Nolo). He has also published numerous articles in law journals. Sara J. Berman-Barrett is an attorney and bar review professor. She is the co-author of *Represent Yourself in Court and The Criminal Law Handbook* and the author of numerous articles and law course materials.