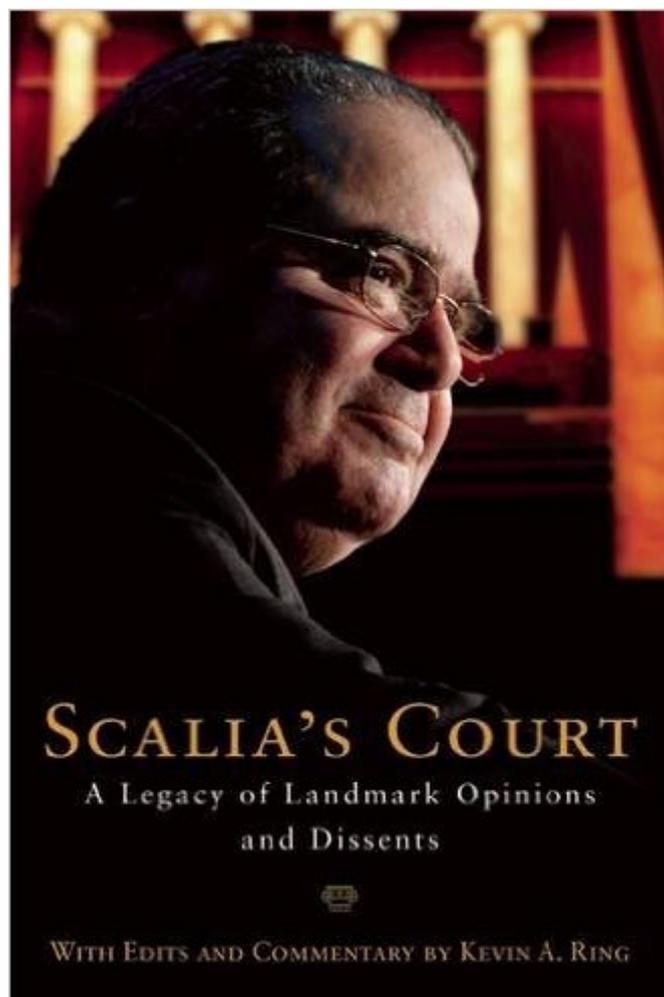


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# Scalia's Court: A Legacy Of Landmark Opinions And Dissents



## Synopsis

The sudden passing of Justice Antonin Scalia shook America. After almost thirty years on the Supreme Court, Scalia had become as integral to the institution as the hallowed room in which he sat. His wisecracking interruptions during oral arguments, his unmatched legal wisdom, his unwavering dedication to the Constitution, and his blistering dissents defined his leadership role on the court and inspired new generations of policymakers and legal minds. Now, as Republicans and Democrats wage war over Scalia's lamentably empty Supreme Court seat, Kevin Ring, former counsel to the U.S. Senate's Constitution Subcommittee, has taken a close look at the cases that best illustrate Scalia's character, philosophy, and legacy. In *Scalia's Court: A Legacy of Landmark Opinions and Dissents*, Ring collects Scalia's most memorable opinions on free speech, separation of powers, race, religious freedom, the rights of the accused, abortion, and more; and intersperses Scalia's own words with an analysis of his legal reasoning and his lasting impact on American jurisprudence. "I don't worry about my legacy," Scalia once told an audience at the National Archives. "Just do your job right, and who cares?" Now that "the lion of American law has left the stage," as the U.S. Attorney General put it, it is for the rest of America to worry about his legacy—and to care.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 592 pages

Publisher: Regnery Publishing (April 4, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1621575225

ISBN-13: 978-1621575221

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 2 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #43,689 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Law > Administrative Law > Federal Jurisdiction](#) #11 in [Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Courts](#) #18 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > Judicial Branch](#)

## Customer Reviews

Kevin Ring has done a wonderful job capturing the essence of Justice Scalia's jurisprudence in a way that is both thought-provoking and entertaining. From Scalia's rapier-like wit to his stinging barbs to his deep intellect, it is all here. As America considers replacing this judicial giant, Ring's

book comes at the perfect time and is a welcome reminder of what big shoes the next justice will have to fill. Ring honors Scalia's memory and the indelible mark he's made on our country. And it's a great read to boot. Do yourself a favor and buy this book.

If you liked Justice Scalia or care about the future of the Supreme Court, this is a book you must have. Kevin Ring explains Scalia's judicial philosophy and discusses how he changed the court and the law. Then, he showcases Scalia's greatest opinions on affirmative action, abortion, Obamacare, gun rights, immigration, and religion freedom, and others. The opinions cover Scalia's entire career. This is not a biography where you will learn all about Scalia's life. This is the book to buy if you want to read for yourself how Scalia interpreted the Constitution and why the fight to replace him will be so difficult.

Scalia's legacy and impact will be debated beyond our lifetimes. For the duration of that argument, Scalia's Court, thanks to Ring's expert curation and commentary, will endure as its unimprovable primer and guidebook.

I have read only the first chapter so far and this book has grabbed me. Like Scalia or not, this is an excellent explanation of why he voted as he did and the basis of his opinions. Even Elena Kagan, who voted opposite to Scalia most of the time, respected his thoughts and opinions. He really did change how judges think about the law and how to decide cases. And it is not political or ideological, which is a nice change from the vitriol that is part of our daily news now. I am now about halfway thru the book and it is still 5 stars. His opinions are remarkably consistent in the thinking. Agree or not, his writing is thought-provoking. His use of language is fascinating.

As a fellow alumni of the same school, I am using this as a bedtime reader. If the law doesn't put you to sleep, what will. It is interesting to read Judge Scalia's thoughts broken down into sixteen chapters regarding major concerns that are very applicable to today's politics.

Conservative commentator George Will recently wrote that Justice Antonin Scalia seems more revered than read by many conservatives. It's likely he's also more reviled than read by many liberals. Indeed, one of the most interesting things about Justice Scalia is the disconnect between what people think they know about his approach to the law, and how he actually approached the law. Thank goodness, then, for Kevin Ring and this new book. To say that a book is

for everyone is cliché, but in many ways it's apt for "Scalia's Court." Whether you loved him or hated him (and, if you're reading this, chances are it's one or the other), this book is a tremendous resource for anyone who wants a better understanding of one of the most important jurists of the modern era. "Scalia's Court" is also appropriate for a wide audience. You don't need to be a lawyer or a law student to follow along, and Ring does an excellent job of organizing the opinions by familiar topics, and offering insights into the opinions by way of interesting introductions. You might be familiar with Justice Scalia's opinions and you want to revisit them, or you might be in the (enviable!) position of being introduced to Justice Scalia's wonderful wit and sharp logic for the first time. Either way, "Scalia's Court" is for you. Three things are certain for anyone who reads this book. First, you will be entertained. Second, you will be surprised. Something in one of Justice Scalia's opinions will be different from what you expected he'd write. (This alone is worth the price of the book.) Lastly, you will come away with a rich understanding of Justice Scalia's jurisprudence. "Scalia's Court" is a deep dive into a fascinating subject — one that will be rightly studied and debated for generations. You can get a head start on that conversation by picking up this book!

Scalia's Court is a collection of late justice's judicial opinions. Scalia's Court is lightly edited by Kevin Ring. Ring did an excellent in collecting judicial opinions into meaningful groups (gun rights, abortion etc.) and providing the reader appropriate context as well as some brief, but relevant commentary. There is a little hero worship in the commentary, but Ring still deserves five stars for putting together a fine book. However, as more than ninety percent of the text is Scalia in his own words, how many stars does Scalia deserve? In some of his opinions Scalia deserves five stars. This reviewer was particularly impressed with the clarity and reasoning in cases involving modifying the rules of professional golf for a person with a disability, campaign finance reform, and a case concerning tax credits and Obamacare. However, in other cases, despite his (and Ring's) assertions to contrary, Scalia's own personal conservative views were quite evident, this was particularly true in cases involving abortion or gay rights. In others, his logic was flawed. For instance, in marshalling his argument against gun control he repeatedly cited the prevalence of handguns. While I agree with his conclusion, his reasoning being based on the prevalence of gun ownership is bogus. If sheer numbers mattered, then given the high prevalence of drug use, there would be a constitutional right to use illicit substances. By far his worse opinion, was his dissent in case regarding state support of the all-male military college (VMI). To support his opinion Scalia quoted at length from VMI's code of personal conduct. Basing a legal ruling on the plaintiff's

personal belief system is simply not good jurisprudence. So in summary, Ring deserves five stars, Scalia three. Splitting the difference the book, Scalia's Court, deserves four stars.

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