

4-1-1955

Judge Medina Speaks. Harold R. Medina. Ed. By Maxine Boord Virtue.

Lois L. Crissey
University at Buffalo School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/buffalolawreview>



Part of the [Judges Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lois L. Crissey, *Judge Medina Speaks. Harold R. Medina. Ed. By Maxine Boord Virtue.*, 4 Buff. L. Rev. 372 (1955).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/buffalolawreview/vol4/iss3/23>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Buffalo Law Review by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. For more information, please contact lawscholar@buffalo.edu.

BUFFALO LAW REVIEW

JUDGE MEDINA SPEAKS. Harold R. Medina. Ed. by Maxine Boord
Virtue. Albany, N. Y.: Matthew Bender & Company, Inc.
1954. Pp. 319. \$5.00.

Judge Medina speaks, and having spoke, moves on amidst a haze of verbal smoke. This collection of addresses, most of which were made while the author was Chairman of the Section of Judicial Administration of the American Bar Association during 1951-52, portrays the judge as a devoted minister of American democracy. Although his renown is an outgrowth of the Communist trial, it is in the role of exponent of American justice that he perhaps has contributed most to his profession.

There is no doubt of his dedication to the improvement of our judicial processes; this, despite the occasional lapse into flag-waving. The fault in the book lies more in the failure of the written word to convey the atmosphere created by the speaker, a complaint common to most compilations of speeches.

The thoughts expressed by the speaker are not earth-shaking; nor are they original. The American public is aware of the inadequacies of our administration of justice; for example, court calendars should be cleared, judges should be relieved of political pressure, outmoded procedures must be replaced. Judge Medina adds his prestige to current movements to effect the necessary changes.

Another point which the speaker seeks to emphasize is the necessity of making this reform the result of community effort. The public, while aware of the limitations of our court system, must be shown the way to fight for changes. It falls upon the lawyers to have the courage to lead the way. The laity have voiced their dissatisfaction; it is incumbent on the legal profession to guide this community spirit into constructive action.

Medina is a humanist. Not only does he recommend a formal education in the classics as preparation for the Bar, but stresses the continuation of one's growth through reading and re-reading of great works of literature. "The task of the humanist is a never ending quest for true human values and one of the significant trends of our time is the increasing emphasis placed upon the study of the liberal arts."¹ The ultimate goal is the understanding of one's fellow man, so that the ideal of "one hundred per cent justice" can be approached.

There is no reason why these things cannot be done on the state level as well as the national . . . [O]ne hundred percent

1. P. 163.

BOOK REVIEWS

justice, which is the only sort of justice worth having, can only be obtained by the fullest cooperation between the judges, the lawyers, the law schools and the community at large. It will be a source of infinite satisfaction to me if it should turn out that I have contributed in any way, however small, to the implementing of this cooperation.²

Judge Medina is at his best when speaking to young people. In this collection will be found several addresses delivered before high school and college audiences. Here is captured, through well-chosen personal experiences, the character of the author, which tempers idealism with a dash of reality. It is in these speeches that the warmth of his personality and the sincerity of his soul reach out to the reader.

In this reviewer's opinion the speeches show that Judge Medina is an excellent after-dinner speaker, but the collection as presented in this book only becomes significant because of the evangelical fervor with which they are delivered, and because of the stature of the speaker.

Lois L. Crissey

Librarian
University of Buffalo School of Law

2. P. 160.

