Amazon is honored to offer a luxuriously packaged, numbered, premium bonded leather, limited edition of Making Your Case: The Art of Persuading Judges. Limited to 2010 numbered copies, this Collectors Edition is bound in high quality bonded leather with accompanying hardbound slipcase. In their professional lives courtroom lawyers must do these two things well: speak persuasively and write persuasively. In this noteworthy book, two of the most noted legal writers of our day Justice Antonin Scalia and Bryan A. Garner systematically present every important idea about judicial persuasion in a fresh, entertaining way. Making Your Case: The Art of Persuading Judges is a guide for novice and experienced litigators alike. It covers the essentials of sound legal reasoning, including how to develop the syllogism that underlies any argument. From there the authors explain the art of brief-writing, especially what to include and what to omit, so that you can induce the judge to focus closely on your arguments. Finally, they show what it takes to succeed in oral argument. The opinions of Justice Scalia are legendary for their sharp insights, biting wit, and memorable phrasing. The writings of Bryan A. Garner, editor in chief of Black’s Law Dictionary, are respected inside and outside legal circles for their practical guidance on the art of writing and advocacy. Together the Scalia-Garner team has produced a fresh, innovative approach to a timeless topic.

My Personal Review:
I am a law professor who spent 25 years as a Plaintiffs lawyer before deciding to teach. I’ve been before the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal many times and state appellate courts a few times. One caveat to consider: I expect to be arguing before the United States Supreme Court in the future. I hesitate to be too ebullient, lest you think that I’m trying to curry favor. However, I think that this book is great.
Why do I recommend it? First, it is short. This book will accomplish much of what other books try to teach about advocacy, but in many fewer pages.

Secondly, it is practical. It teaches writing skills, speaking skills, and how to be persuasive with limited time.

Finally, it is not just for lawyers. Anyone trying to be persuasive can apply the same skills to other situations.

For those of you who are politically opposed to Justice Scalia (which, believe it or not, includes some law professors) this is a joint effort by Garner and Scalia, and they frequently disagree. Hearing both sides of the argument on how to write or speak persuasively will help you decide how you want to present your arguments.

How do my political opinions and Justice Scalia's opinions mesh? Can I be fair? I think so. He's a Federalist, I consider myself an Anti-Federalist. He as supporter of administrative delegation, I think delegation of congressional responsibilities to administrative agencies is congressional abdication. In short, I'm not recommending this book because Justice Scalia and I agree on policy, because on many policy matters we don't. I'm recommending it because I think it will help you.

You won't be disappointed with the book.

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