

The Reading List



BY BRENDA SAPINO JEFFREYS

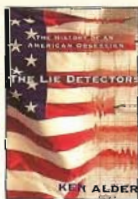
THREE NEW BOOKS THAT SHOULD BE ON EVERY EXECUTIVE'S READING LIST ARE WRITTEN ABOUT THE LIE DETECTOR MACHINE, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AND E-MAIL. A NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR'S BOOK ABOUT THE LIE DETECTOR MACHINE TELLS A FASCINATING STORY ABOUT EARLY AND CURRENT USE OF THE POLYGRAPH. A TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT'S BOOK ABOUT THE SUPREME COURT SHOWS THE LINK BETWEEN IDEOLOGY, POLITICS AND THE COURT. AND THE BOOK ABOUT E-MAIL COMMUNICATION BY TWO EDITORS IS A USEFUL GUIDE FOR ANYONE IN THE BUSINESS WORLD WHO USES E-MAIL ON THE JOB AND WANTS TO LEARN HOW TO USE IT WISELY AND CAREFULLY.

"The Lie Detectors: The History of an American Obsession"

BY KEN ALDER

Free Press/2007/334 pages

In business and the law it can be difficult to know who's telling the truth and who's lying. This book traces the rocky history of the lie detector machine and the stormy lives of John Larson, the police officer who developed a lie detector machine in the 1920s to use in interrogations, and Leonarde Keeler, who patented the Keeler Polygraph in 1931 and expanded its use to business and government. Prior to that, in 1923, the use of the polygraph in the justice system was curtailed, when the Appeals Court for the District of Columbia held in *Frye v. United States* that the "blood pressure deception test," an early version of the lie detector machine, was inadmissible as scientific evidence. That opinion limited use of the polygraph until the U.S. Supreme Court's 1993 ruling in *Daubert v. Merrell* — the junk science ruling — in which the court replaced the *Frye* standard with a multipronged test on the admissibility of scientific evidence. This book isn't a legal tome — it's filled with anecdotes about the troubled lives of Larson and Keeler and how the polygraph was used to help fight crime in 1930s Chicago, during World War II, the Cold War and now in the post-Sept. 11 era. In the end, author Ken Alder, a professor at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., questions the reliability of the polygraph and the willingness of American society to rely upon its use.



Roberts Jr. and Samuel Alito Jr. After Roberts' confirmation, but before nominating Alito to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Bush nominated his longtime adviser, White House Counsel Harriet Miers, for the job. But after conservatives questioned Miers' qualifications, she withdrew her nomination. Because Miers is a Dallas lawyer — she returned in May to Locke Liddell & Sapp in Dallas — the Miers part of the book may be the most interesting to Texas business executives. The book is a fascinating insider account of the Supreme Court nomination process that is good reading for business executives who care about the ideological makeup of the Supreme Court and what that means to the country.

"Send: The Essential Guide to Email for Office and Home"

BY DAVID SHIPLEY AND WILL SCHWALBE

Alfred A. Knopf/2007/247

E-mail messages make business and daily life easier in many ways, but there's clearly a right way and a wrong way to e-mail while on the job.

This readable book by two editors provides a good summary of ground rules for smart e-mailing. Authors David Shipley, an editor at *The New York Times*, and Will Schwalbe, editor in chief at Hyperion Books, provide several tips for how to write the "perfect e-mail." They suggest starting with a concise, accurate subject line. According to the authors, it's OK to use contractions, generally not OK to write in ALL CAPS and best to use only one exclamation point at a time in a business e-mail. They include a list of five words they suggest nearly everyone misuses — disinterested, irregardless, nonplussed, penultimate and presently. They also write that there's a time when a phone call, a letter or a fax is more effective, and smarter, than an e-mail. It's all good advice. But e-mails can often be trouble, particularly in criminal prosecutions, and the authors write about "the email that can land you in jail." To avoid legal problems from e-mail communications, the authors write that businesspeople who use e-mail should be consistent in how and when they communicate through e-mail and should use care with the "forward" and "copy" buttons. It's also a good idea to follow corporate document retention programs, they write. Shipley and Schwalbe end the book with two suggestions: "Think before you send. Send email you would like to receive." This book is useful and entertaining for anyone who uses e-mail in business.



"Supreme Conflict: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Control of the United States Supreme Court"

BY JAN CRAWFORD GREENBURG

The Penguin Press/2007/340 pages

A vote for a candidate for president of the United States is more than likely a vote for the future composition of the U.S. Supreme Court. This timely book, by ABC news correspondent Jan Crawford Greenburg, uses recent history to show the link between ideology and a president's Supreme Court nominations. It traces the changes in the Supreme Court from the Reagan Era through the administration of President George W. Bush, who had a major impact on the Supreme Court's ideology in 2005 by successfully nominating two conservative federal appeals court judges for the high court — John

