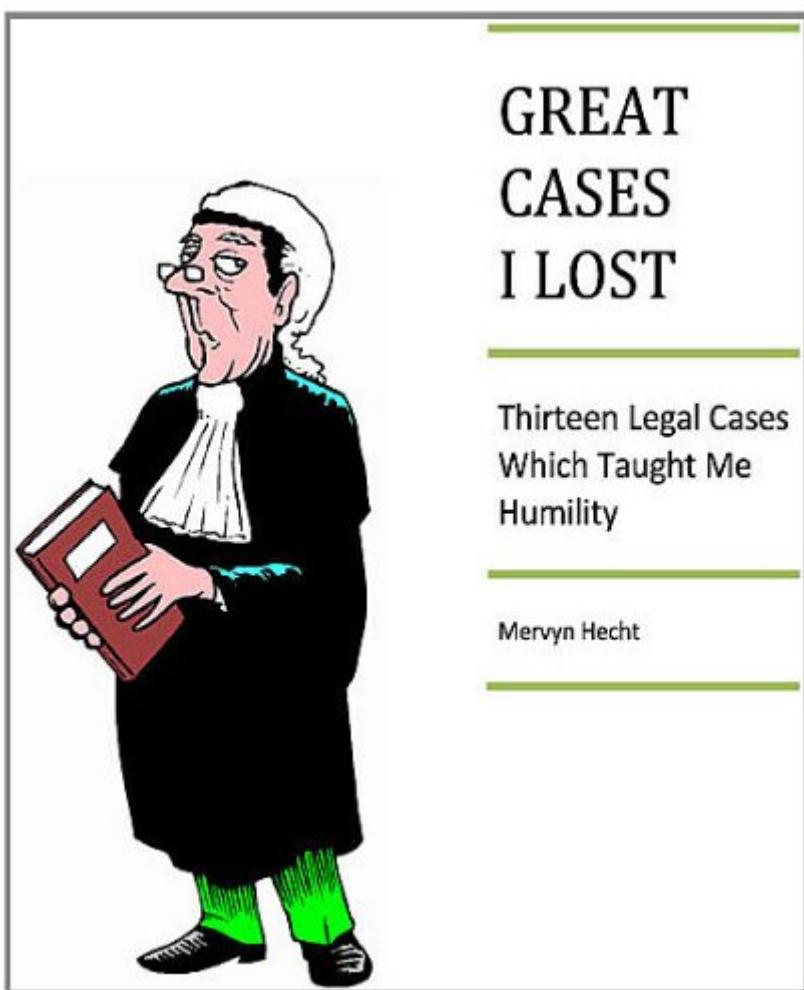


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# **GREAT CASES I LOST: THIRTEEN LEGAL CASES WHICH TAUGHT ME HUMILITY**



## **Synopsis**

This is a sometimes humorous, sometimes heartaching account of cases Merv Hecht, a lawyer in Pacific Palisades, California remembers from his 40 years of law practice.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Merv, I finally finished reading your book "great cases I lost". It did take very long, not because it was boring but because I usually read in the metro or in my bed, and your book could only be read on my computer, which is too cumbersome to be used in either case. I enjoyed it very much. I enjoyed being able to follow the legal arcanae in the - very clearly written - thinking process of a lawyer, in particular in "Chicken and other animals" and "The Heller's matter" (already a Mr. Maddox involved in a scam). I liked the humour and I was charmed by your stories. They reminded me of old police series like James Hadley Chase's, and made me nostalgic of the USA I knew when I was a student in LA, when most of the people were polite and nice like in the songs of Simon and Garfunkel. I loved the way you describe the characters involved: uncle Iser and aunt Shirley, Craig Medoff, Don Saltzman, Roger Diamond (we have met by writing in the IPM times), Cheryl (I met her personally

and had her many times on the phone), Leo, Bob. I regretted that you mentioned Bonnie, but never wrote about her. I loved it also because the stories are also about your life, the way you make money, the variety of your domains of interest, the way you look at people, the way you make friends and keep them for a long time, the importance of your family. Finally, I just want to say that your book is not so much about cases that you lost (in fact only 3/13) which is again somewhat misleading (c.f. "The instant wine connoisseur") than about great lessons that you learned. Michel

Merv Hecht is my relative; as I like to say, "We are second cousins, once removed by marriage, and then returned! ". And boy, am I ever glad he was. Spending an evening with this book, is like spending an evening with the man himself. Like Twain meandering down the Great Mississippi, Hecht shares his voyage along the salacious Sunset "Boulevard of Dreams", pointing out along the way the pathos, drama, and irony of our human attempts to share this planet..and the wisdom gained by our imperfect attempts to mediate, adjudicate and mitigate our (social) intercourse. It will wise you. Read his other two, on investing and on wine, and you may be drunkin' rich...and wise! This book is a morsel of Merv who's sweet taste you will not only enjoy, but find yourself wanting more...like truffles sprinkled over pasta in Piedmonte, on some fine sepia toned afternoon in your fondest memories. Reed Kaplan Menlo Park

Merv, This is a great read. I purchased it for my husband who read it in 2 enjoyable sittings. These cases and their stories, as you say teach humility, they also reaffirm our belief that sometimes the battle is one by the decision not to fight. And when you do take your case before a judge or jury, winning requires knowledge of the law and the evidence, and a keen understanding of who your audience is. These cases have valuable lessons for business operators, real estate owners, and intellectual property owners. Being without legal training, we can both say that you need not be an attorney or a law student to appreciate this book. And if you do go to court, you want a lawyer like Mervyn Hecht. Keep writing !

Your book saved my life Merv. I just arrived in Cannes from the other side of the planet, and I couldn't fall asleep till 3 a.m. the previous night. The reason is I had not had the time to find something to read. I just finished my book in the plane. I had been turning and moving from one side of the bed to the other all night and I was determined not to spend another night like that. Then I received a notice about this book. It was like listening to your stories on the French Riviera, while you were miles away. You are not only a great lawyer but also a fabulous storyteller. Your stories are

fun and entertaining. I read almost the whole book and finally fell asleep around midnight. Thanks Merv for this great book.

Wasn't sure what I'd find and downloaded this to read on my iPhone whilst traveling. What a great wit and funny! I thought it would be a boring legal book but it's not. Are you sure this wasn't written by Erma Bombeck? Great lessons and really a fast and funny read.

"Great Cases I Lost" was a very enjoyable read with all fourteen cases being different in their legal characteristics and demonstrate a wide range of law practice. Each case evoked it's own emotional response. The carnival episode went suddenly from light-hearted to tragic. The San Jose case made me angry about anti-semitism. The pettiness of people was demonstrated in the dog story. I thought the George Rosenberg verdict was unjust and Wyler should have been assessed some liability. The cleverness of the lawyer in the pornography case was amusing. The murder case was like a real "who done it". The Invisible Killer case shows how convoluted law suits can become. The theme throughout the book was to me that after all it was incumbent for a lawyer to be adequately compensated for his efforts, and the more prepared a lawyer is, the harder he works, and the more he has of the "clever factor" will result in satisfactory fee compensation.

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