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## BOOK RELEASE

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### **Law Makers, Law Breakers, and Uncommon Trials** By Robert Aitken and Marilyn Aitken

*ABA book collects real-life courtroom trials that helped form our legal system*

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CHICAGO, Nov. 28, 2007 – The success of television series and movies about trial lawyers, their clients, and their travails demonstrates the public’s attraction for courtroom drama. Yet fictional accounts pale in comparison to the real-life courtroom trials depicted in the *Law Makers, Law Breakers and Uncommon Trials*, newly released from the American Bar Association.

*Law Makers, Law Breakers and Uncommon Trials* is a treasure trove of intriguing trials and cases that shaped the way law is practiced today. Authors Bob and Marilyn Aitken provide a behind-the-scenes look at these predominant cases in an effortless, easy-to-read style that avoids legalistic parlance as they unearth little-known facts and events that have led parties into court over the ages.

Among the cases covered: the sitting Supreme Court justice who is hounded by his creditors and twice imprisoned for debt; the young nation’s first Jewish nominee to the Supreme Court, who turns the honor down, and is later forced to flee the country to avoid a charge of treason, and who still later surfaces as London’s leading barrister; the lame-duck secretary of state John Marshall, who forgets to deliver the last of the ‘midnight judges’ commissions, setting off a chain of events that culminates in his own celebrated opinion in *Marbury v. Madison*.

From the divine right of Charles I to the civil rights struggle of Rosa Parks, 25 non-fiction stories from the pages of *Litigation*, the journal of the ABA Section of Litigation, provide a panorama of people whose actions helped form the legal system in the Western Hemisphere.

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With more than 413,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.

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