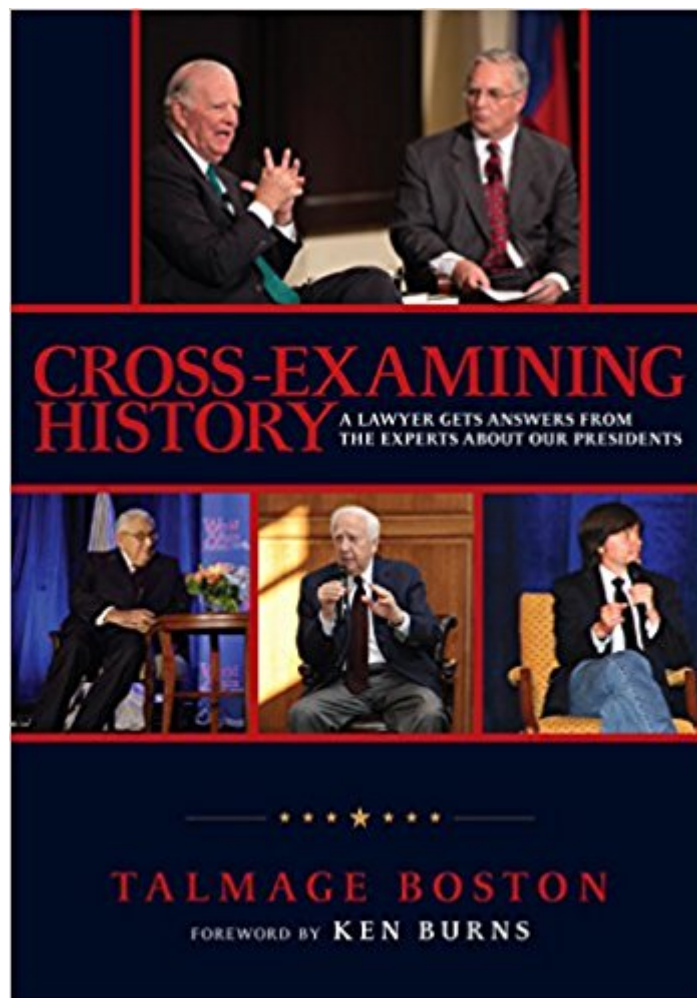




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# Cross-Examining History: A Lawyer Gets Answers From The Experts About Our Presidents



## Synopsis

Talmage Boston seeks to find out what it was that made our major presidents tick and what caused their historic lives to play out as they did. In *Cross-Examining History*, Boston interviews presidential insiders including Pulitzer Prize winners and finalists, Emmy Award winners, New York Times best-selling and "Notable Book" authors, scholars of the highest order, and a few newcomers well on their way to gaining national public recognition, all in hopes to provide insights about America's past that can help us better understand our present situation and provide a more informed expectation about our future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"What a stunning book!—what comes through again and again is not only the quality and the insight of the conversations but the skillful way [Boston] keep[s] the "cross examinations" going and always in good spirit. The book's superb design conveys both strength and clarity. Talmage Boston has just what makes a first-rate interviewer—a sharp mind, good-hearted curiosity, and a natural gift for conversation." (David McCullough, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Truman and John Adams 2016-07-13)"It's during times like this more than ever that we need the long view of history to sort things out, which brings me back to [your] monumental achievement. What [Boston has] done here is magnificent, the work done to assemble all these insights and arrange them so attractively, logically and entertainingly. Of course, the thread that holds all these diverse voices together is [Boston], [his] passion and knowledge—so evident

as I read through each of the chapters. I am certain that every author privileged enough to be included feels exactly the way I do. I look forward to many evenings with this book. This is a treasure I'll come back to over and over again, and so, I trust, will countless readers. Being a part of it is a signature honor." (Charles Slack 2016-07-13)"Talmage Boston is a gifted interviewer. He knows how to draw out the deeper truths, to get at how people and things really work. I couldn't stop reading [Cross-Examining History]. A wonderful, wonderful achievement and a true gem. Sometimes the blurbs tell the truth." (Evan Thomas, author of *Being Nixon*, *Ike's Bluff*, and *Robert Kennedy* 2016-07-13)"The lesson my father taught me—proper preparation prevents poor performance—has been my mantra since I was a boy. Talmage Boston understands that adage when he interviews people about presidential history. And like all good litigators, he gets to the meat of the subject quickly, wastes no time, and throws only hardballs." (James A. Baker, III, 61st U.S. Secretary of State; 67th U.S. Secretary of the Treasury; and 10th and 16th White House Chief of Staff 2016-07-13)"Talmage Boston is the kind of reader any writer wants: devoted, careful, searching, and thoughtful. Above all he is a steadfast friend to the telling of history, bringing his passion for the past and his lawyerly mind to the task of interviewing those of us who have spent years in the largely solitary pursuit of biography. His work is first-rate; his joy in the task evident and infectious."—Jon Meacham, Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential biographer — "Combining the curiosity of Charlie Rose with the gravitas of Edward R. Murrow, Talmage Boston brings out the best in his subjects and truly makes history come alive. What an honor to have been in his witness chair!"—Harold Holzer, winner 2015 Lincoln Prize; Chairman Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation; author of *Lincoln and the Power of the Press* and *President-Elect Lincoln* — "Talmage Boston is a brilliant interviewer, raconteur, historian, and Dallas impresario. His mind crackles with curiosity and knowledge. Nobody gets to the heart of the main strands of American history quite like Boston. He is *sui generis*." (Douglas Brinkley, New York Times best-selling presidential historian and professor of history at Rice University 2016-07-13)"Boston is the best interviewer on the planet."—S.C. Gwynne, author of *Empire of the Summer Moon* — "Talmage Boston is that rare interviewer who knows both history and historians. His knowledge of history allows him to ask good questions. His knowledge of historians gets them to provide interesting answers." —H.W. Brands, New York Times best-selling presidential historian and professor of history at The University of Texas at Austin 2016-07-13)Having the hefty design and subject matter of a college textbook, but the structure of a month's worth of "Charlie Rose" transcripts (with a foreword by documentarian Ken Burns, at that), *Cross-Examining History* features interviews about the presidency with notable authors, scholars, and political figures including David

McCullough, Douglas Brinkley, and James Baker, respectively. On average, the results are encapsulated but engaging: 15-page discussions capable of whetting the reader's mind for more study... the well-defined chapters and specified index (e.g., "Jefferson and the Exercise of Power Amidst Partisan Politics," "Nixon's Response to the Publication of the Pentagon Papers," etc.) enable the reader to seek a topic or easily recall a particular point. (Washington Independent Review of Books 2016-12-08) What do you get when you mix a seasoned litigator, a presidential history buff and a passionate writer? No, not a bad lawyer joke but the perfect combination of skills needed for author Talmage Boston to pull off his new book, *Cross-Examining History: A Lawyer Gets Answers from the Experts About Our Presidents*. In the 500-page compendium, Boston puts presidential history on the witness stand, offering readers the chance to learn more about America's commanders in chief. *Cross-Examining History* contains 31 edited transcripts of Boston's onstage interviews, conducted all over the country with some of America's leading presidential historians and insiders. Starting with a foreword by Ken Burns, the book is a who's who of literary and political luminaries, including David McCullough, Jon Meacham and Henry Kissinger. (ABA Journal 2016-12-08)

TALMAGE BOSTON is a shareholder in Winstead P.C. in Dallas and has been a member of its litigation practice since joining the firm in 1997. His practice involves all aspects of dispute resolution in commercial transactions. With more than thirty years of business litigation experience in Dallas, Talmage has tried jury cases and argued appeals all over Texas, in both state and federal courts. He also devotes a portion of his practice to serving as a mediator. Talmage is board certified in both civil trial law and civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He serves on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors and is a past chair of the State Bar Litigation Section, as well as a past chair of the Council of Chairs for the State Bar. He also is a past chair of the Business Litigation Section of the Dallas Bar Association. During the thirteen years since joining Winstead, Talmage has been one of the most sought-after seminar speakers at State Bar and Dallas Bar Association litigation seminars, speaking on topics including electronic evidence, summary judgment practice, "Dos and Don'ts in the Courtroom," arbitration, alternative dispute resolution, and a wide variety of litigation ethics topics. Talmage received a State Bar of Texas Presidential Citation Award every year from 2005-10. He was named "Texas Super Lawyer" from 2003-11, as published in *Texas Monthly*, and named one of Top 100 Lawyers in Dallas-Fort Worth in 2010. Boston has published in numerous legal and sports publications, the latest: *Raising the Bar: The Crucial Role of the Lawyer in Society*, published by the State Bar of Texas, and is the author of two critically

acclaimed prior books, 1939: *Baseball's Tipping Point* (foreword by John Grisham, Bright Sky Press 2005), and *Baseball and the Baby Boomer: A History, Commentary and Memoir* (foreword by Frank Deford, Bright Sky Press 2009).

I have never seen a history book like this. The author has come up with a very creative way to give the reader the perfect introduction to our most famous presidents and allow for in-depth investigation if you want to go further. The book is a collection of interviews the author conducted with award-winning historians who have written biographies of our most famous presidents. Think of it as going to one lecture where you get to hear our country's finest historians discuss our most important presidents. It is an amazing experience. For example, in the chapter on Andrew Jackson, the author interviews H.W. Brands, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, who wrote a biography of Andrew Jackson. The chapter has subject headings for each topic covered in the interview and by the end, the reader has a wonderful overview of the accomplishments and failings of President Jackson. But there is more. If you want to study Jackson further, you don't have to search for the best biography of Andrew Jackson because the author has already brought you the historian and his book to you. What is best of all about the book is that the author asks very thoughtful and probing questions of the historians he interviews. The questions are also very topical. For example, the author asks each historian of the early presidents how that president's view of slavery should effect his legacy (i.e. there is a section on President Washington's views on slavery). The author has clearly studied the books of all the famous historians he interviews and has a keen sense of what subjects are interesting. His work and skill pay off because he anticipates what the reader wants to ask of these historians and gets fascinating answers. If you have ever wanted to learn more about our presidents but have been intimidated by having to read a lengthy biography of each one, there is no better place to start than this book. It is a book that will stimulate your thinking and make you want to share it with others.

Talmage Boston is a master interviewer. The unique delivery style of interviewing those that were are or closest to the President portrayed I found insightful. Structure to the book gave it depth and weight.

A thorough, probing, intimate and fair analysis of our most significant presidents, conducted by the author (who is also a litigator) through a series of interviews with their most notable biographers/confidants. The beauty of this gem is that each chapter is independent from the next,

so they can be read in any order. A must read for anyone interested in presidential history beyond the standard academic texts.

An excellent analysis of what a good president is and should be. Presidential history both good and bad and surprises

Great book

Boston hones in on key aspects of each subject's personality, accomplishments and failures, such that the reader gains new insights about our Presidents in an efficient, enjoyable way.

An outstanding book, thorough and well written. Talmage is an excellent writer and a great speaker.

Outstanding book! Talmage is brilliant! Bob Hinton

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