

Preface

Perhaps good advocates are born, not made. However, even if this proposition is true—which I doubt—few, if any, advocates have such great innate ability that they cannot benefit from a well-prepared textbook or manual about trial practice. Likewise, even the most maladroit attorney can improve significantly his courtroom performance by obtaining guidance from experts. Fortunately, the Master Advocate's Edition of *The Air Force Law Review* now provides in capsule form valuable instruction for any lawyer who appears before a court-martial. Study of its contents should enable a practitioner to enhance noticeably his forensic efforts.

The Master Advocate's Edition's purpose is to inform readers about court-martial trial practice as it exists, rather than to criticize current practice or urge changes therein. Thus, it truly is a practitioner's handbook. The text is well organized. Pretrial investigation and trial preparation and tactics are discussed; and guidance is provided for effective advocacy in connection with sentencing and appeals. Each article is written by an experienced litigator who is familiar with the subject being treated. Some of these commentators have practiced before me; and I can personally attest to their knowledge and skill.

The Judge Advocate General School of the Air Force seems to be broadening the scope and enhancing the quality of its publications. In this way, the professionalism of lawyers in that Service is being constantly upgraded. However, the Master Advocate's Edition not only will provide great assistance to Air Force advocates and other uniformed lawyers but also will be of value to anyone, in or out of the armed services, who is interested either in military justice or in trial practice.



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