



# The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics

By Alexander M. Bickel

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

## The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel

This classic book on the role of the United States Supreme Court traces the history of the Court, assessing the merits of various decisions along the way. Alexander Bickel begins with *Marbury v. Madison*, which he says give shaky support to judicial review, and concludes with the school desegregation cases of 1954, which he uses to show the extent and limits of the Court's power. In this way he accomplishes his stated purpose: "to have the Supreme Court's exercise of judicial review better understood and supported and more sagaciously used." The book now includes a new foreword by Harry H. Wellington. Alexander Mordecai Bickel (1924-1974) was one of the most influential constitutional commentators of the twentieth century. Bickel's most distinctive contribution to constitutional law was to stress what he called "the passive virtues" of judicial decision-making – the refusal to decide cases on substantive grounds if narrower grounds exist to decide the case. Bickel viewed "private ordering" and the voluntary working-out of problems as generally preferable to legalistic solutions. In his books Bickel attacked the Warren Court for what he saw as its misuse of history, shoddy reasoning, and sometimes arbitrary results. Bickel thought that the Warren Court's two most important lines of decision, *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Baker v. Carr*, did not produce the results the Court had intended. In his book *The Least Dangerous Branch*, Bickel coined the term counter-majoritarian difficulty to describe his view that judicial review stands in tension with democratic theory. Bickel envisioned the Supreme Court as playing a statesman-like role in national controversies, engaging in dialogue with the other branches of government. Thus he did not see the Court as a purely passive body, but as one which should lead public opinion, albeit carefully.

 [Download The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at t ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at ...pdf](#)



# **The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics**

*By Alexander M. Bickel*

## **The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics** By Alexander M. Bickel

This classic book on the role of the United States Supreme Court traces the history of the Court, assessing the merits of various decisions along the way. Alexander Bickel begins with *Marbury v. Madison*, which he says give shaky support to judicial review, and concludes with the school desegregation cases of 1954, which he uses to show the extent and limits of the Court's power. In this way he accomplishes his stated purpose: "to have the Supreme Court's exercise of judicial review better understood and supported and more sagaciously used." The book now includes a new foreword by Harry H. Wellington. Alexander Mordecai Bickel (1924-1974) was one of the most influential constitutional commentators of the twentieth century. Bickel's most distinctive contribution to constitutional law was to stress what he called "the passive virtues" of judicial decision-making – the refusal to decide cases on substantive grounds if narrower grounds exist to decide the case. Bickel viewed "private ordering" and the voluntary working-out of problems as generally preferable to legalistic solutions. In his books Bickel attacked the Warren Court for what he saw as its misuse of history, shoddy reasoning, and sometimes arbitrary results. Bickel thought that the Warren Court's two most important lines of decision, *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Baker v. Carr*, did not produce the results the Court had intended. In his book *The Least Dangerous Branch*, Bickel coined the term counter-majoritarian difficulty to describe his view that judicial review stands in tension with democratic theory. Bickel envisioned the Supreme Court as playing a statesman-like role in national controversies, engaging in dialogue with the other branches of government. Thus he did not see the Court as a purely passive body, but as one which should lead public opinion, albeit carefully.

## **The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics** By Alexander M. Bickel **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #736449 in Books
- Published on: 1986-09-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.34" h x .69" w x 5.52" l, .82 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 306 pages



[Download The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at t ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel**

---

### **Editorial Review**

#### **From the Back Cover**

This classic book on the role of the Supreme court in our democracy traces the history of the Court, assessing the merits of various decisions along the way. Eminent law professor Alexander Bickel begins with *Marbury vs. Madison*, which he says gives shaky support to judicial review, and concludes with the school desegregation cases of 1954, which he uses to show the extent and limits of the Court's power. In this way he accomplishes his stated purpose: 'to have the Supreme Court's exercise of judicial review better understood and supported and more sagaciously used.'

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Gloria Robey:**

What do you think about book? It is just for students since they are still students or the item for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great and also important the book *The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics*. All type of book would you see on many solutions. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

##### **Jeffrey Osburn:**

The actual book *The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics* will bring one to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to see, this book very appropriate to you. The book *The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

##### **Roger Moxley:**

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book *The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics* it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can more easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book provides high quality.

**Nancy Thornton:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics, you may enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its called reading friends.

**Download and Read Online The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel #9CF7EZYRTJO**

# **Read The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel for online ebook**

The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel books to read online.

## **Online The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel ebook PDF download**

**The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel Doc**

**The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel Mobipocket**

**The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel EPub**

**9CF7EZYRTJO: The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics By Alexander M. Bickel**