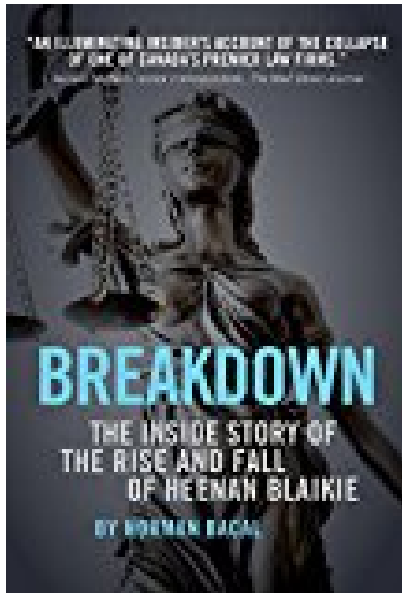


Breakdown The Inside Story of the Rise and Fall of Heenan Blaikie



BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Norman Bacal
- Pages : 336 Pages
- Publisher : Barlow Publishing
- Language : English
- ISBN : 198802515X

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BOOK SYNOPSIS

Heenan Blaikie was one of Canada's leading law firms that boasted 1,100 employees and once had two former prime ministers on its staff -- Pierre Trudeau and Jean Chrétien. When it collapsed in February 2014, lawyers across Canada and the business community were stunned. What went wrong? Why did so many lawyers run for the exit? How did it implode? This is the story of the rise and fall of a great company by the ultimate insider, Norman Bacal, who served as managing partner until a year before the firm's demise. Breakdown takes readers into the boardroom offices during the heady growth of a legal empire built from the ground up over 40 years. We see the seeds of trouble planted - when Jacques Bouchard was hired, for instance, and engaged in dubious dealings between Moscow and Africa with controversial lobbyist and political consultant Ari Ben-Menashe. We see how tensions erupted between the Toronto and Montreal offices, and between the hard-driving lawyers themselves. It is a story about the extraordinary fragility of the legal partnership, but it's also a classic business story, a cautionary tale of the perils of ignoring a firm's culture and vision, and the danger of hiring as CEOs a couple of lawyers with not even an hour of management experience. "An illuminating insiders account of the collapse of one of Canada's premier law firms. Puts you in the passenger seat of a train wreck." -- Jacquie McNish, Senior Correspondent, The Wall Street Journal "Good storytelling makes for a good book. Norman Bacal's ability to render a business story accessible to all readers, not just lawyers, makes this an entertaining read."-- Robert Lantos, film producer, Chairman, Serendipity Point Films "A fascinating and important business story, whose lessons on the impact of culture and leadership apply to all organizations, regardless of size, sector or geography."-- Cailin Rovinescu, President and CEO, Air Canada "Jaw dropping!"-- Drew Hasselback, Editor, Legal Post section of the National Post. "...Great flow and well put together. It all boils down to leadership...an awesome read." - Ellis Jacob, President and CEO, Cineplex

BREAKDOWN THE INSIDE STORY OF THE RISE AND FALL OF HEENAN

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