

Benjamin Cardozo

Quotes

*Law, Justice, Judging, May, Mind, Years, Running, Growth, Taken, Past,
Honesty, Choices, Men, Significance, Erosion, Distance, Errors, Validity,
Roaming, Philosophy*

Justice is not to be taken by storm. She is to be wooed by slow advances.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Method is much, technique is much, but inspiration is even more.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The Constitution was framed upon the theory that the peoples of the several states must sink or swim together, and that in the long run prosperity and salvation are in union and not division.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Law never is, but is always about to be.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The judge is not the knight-errant, roaming at will in pursuit of his own ideal of beauty or of goodness.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The final cause of law is the welfare of society.

~Benjamin Cardozo

History, in illuminating the past, illuminates the present, and in illuminating the present, illuminates the future.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Freedom of expression is the matrix, the indispensable condition, of nearly every other form of freedom.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Justice is not to be taken by storm. She is to be wooed by slow advances. Substitute statute for decision, and you shift the center of authority, but add no quota of inspired wisdom.

~Benjamin Cardozo

There are vogues and fashions in jurisprudence as in literature and art and dress.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Justice, though due to the accused, is due the accuser also. The concept of fairness cannot be strained till it is narrowed to a filament. We are to keep our balance true.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The great tides and currents which engulf the rest of men do not turn aside in their course and pass the judges by.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Rest and motion, unrelieved and unchecked, are equally destructive.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Consequences cannot alter statutes, but may help to fix their meaning.

~Benjamin Cardozo

We seek to find peace of mind in the word, the formula, the ritual. The hope is illusion.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Fraud includes the pretense of knowledge when knowledge there is none.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The heroic hours of life do not announce their presence by drum and trumpet.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Membership in the bar is a privilege burdened with conditions.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Expediency may tip the scales when arguments are nicely balanced.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The repetition of a catchword can hold analysis in fetters for fifty years or more.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The prophet and the martyr do not see the hooting throng. Their eyes are fixed on the eternities.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Inaction without more is not tantamount to choice.

~Benjamin Cardozo

No judicial system could do society's work if each issue had to be decided afresh in every case which raised it.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Due process is a growth too sturdy to succumb to the infection of the least ingredient of error.

~Benjamin Cardozo

With traps and obstacles and hazards confronting us on every hand, only blindness or indifference will fail to turn in all humility, for guidance or for warning, to the study of examples.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Opinion has a significance proportioned to the sources that sustain it.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Not honesty alone, but the punctilio of an honor the most sensitive, is then the standard of behavior.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The risk to be perceived defines the duty to be obeyed.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Code is followed by commentary, and commentary by revision, and thus the task is never done.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The great generalities of the constitution have a content and a significance that vary from age to age.

~Benjamin Cardozo

I take judge-made law as one of the existing realities of life.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The difference is no less real because it is of degree.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Every human being of adult years and sound mind has a legal right to determine what shall be done with his own body.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Prophecy, however honest, is generally a poor substitute for experience.

~Benjamin Cardozo

Danger invites rescue. ... The wrongdoer may not have foreseen the coming of a deliverer. He is accountable as if he had.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The validity of a tax depends upon its nature, and not upon its name.

~Benjamin Cardozo

The constant assumption runs throughout the law that the natural and spontaneous evolutions of habit fix the limits of right and wrong.

~Benjamin Cardozo

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