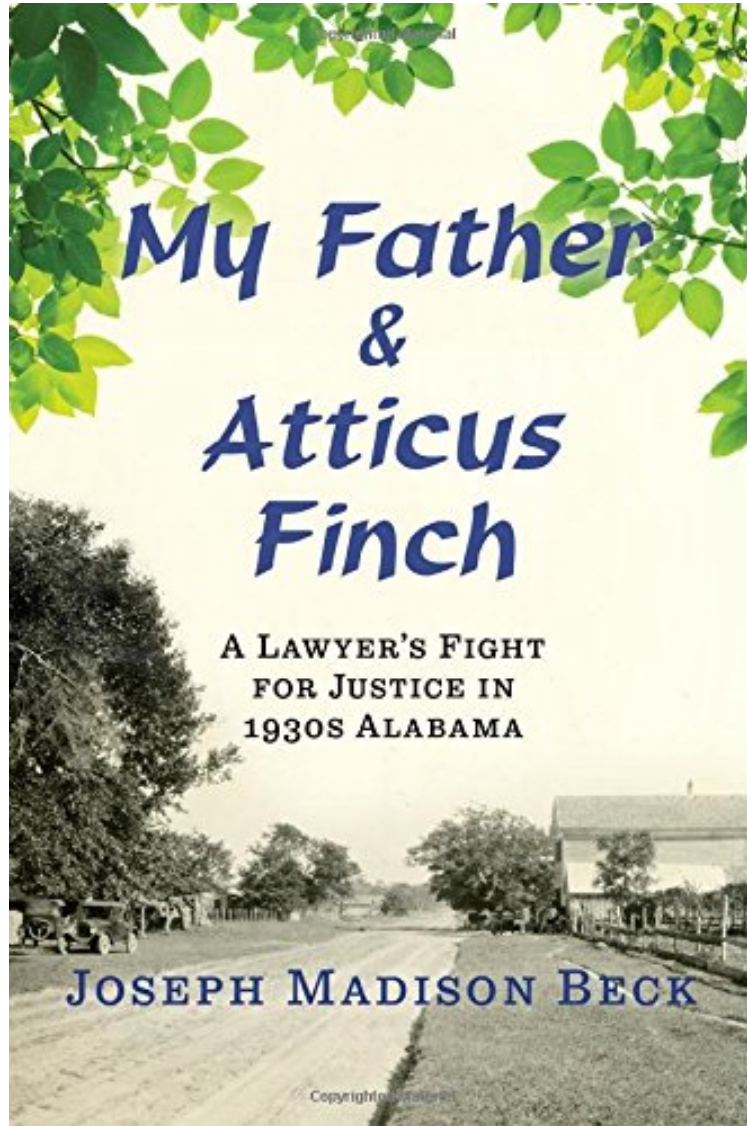


## My Father and Atticus Finch: A Lawyer's Fight for Justice in 1930s Alabama

Joseph Madison Beck

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#533828 in Books Beck Joseph Madison 2016-06-21 2016-06-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.60 x .90 x 5.90l, .0 #File Name: 0393285820240 pages My Father and Atticus Finch A Lawyer s Fight for Justice in 1930s Alabama | File size: 28.Mb

**Joseph Madison Beck : My Father and Atticus Finch: A Lawyer's Fight for Justice in 1930s Alabama** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Father and Atticus Finch: A Lawyer's Fight for Justice in 1930s Alabama:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Literature! By W. Mack Faison Joe Beck has written a

masterpiece. Whether or not Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* was based upon or influenced by the trial depicted in Joe Beck's *My Father and Atticus Finch*, Mr. Father and Atticus Finch stands on its own as great literature. The book offers interesting insight into the mores of white southerners in Alabama during the 1930s, as illustrated in the interaction between the races and the upper and lower white classes. The book offers up and shoots down some of the historical rationales for white mistreatment of blacks during that period. But more than anything, the book is about a lawyer's belief that everyone is entitled to fair treatment in the court system and his sacrifice to assure fair treatment to a black defendant with a questionable past but a courageous spirit. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great! By K. S. Snyder I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the mindset of southerners in the mid-twentieth century; those who would seek to reaffirm how far race relations have come in the years since the Civil War; and all lovers of that great novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and while I was hoping for a different outcome than what I knew would be the inevitable ending, I was still rooting for this brave lawyer and his defendant, and praying for a miracle. Great read! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good read to follow Atticus Finch... By J. Cross This was quite interesting to read. Lots of parallels to Atticus Finch, so I could clearly see what the author surmised that might be true. The fact that he was in contact with Harper Lee made it even more interesting. Good read, good follow up to Harper Lee's book. Really liked it and would recommend it.

The story of Foster Beck, the author's late father, whose defense of a black man accused of rape in 1930s Alabama foreshadowed the trial at the heart of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. As a child, Joseph Beck heard the stories when other lawyers came up with excuses, his father courageously defended a black man charged with raping a white woman. Now a lawyer himself, Beck reconstructs his father's role in *State of Alabama vs. Charles White, Alias*, a trial that was much publicized when Harper Lee was twelve years old. On the day of Foster Beck's client's arrest, the leading local newspaper reported, under a page-one headline, that "a wandering negro fortune teller giving the name Charles White" had "volunteered a detailed confession of the attack" of a local white girl. However, Foster Beck concluded that the confession was coerced. The same article claimed that "the negro accomplished his dastardly purpose," but as in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, there was evidence at the trial to the contrary. Throughout the proceedings, the defendant had to be escorted from the courthouse to a distant prison for safekeeping, and the courthouse itself was surrounded by a detachment of sixteen Alabama highway patrolmen. The saga captivated the community with its dramatic testimonies and emotional outcome. It would take an immense toll on those involved, including Foster Beck, who worried that his reputation had cast a shadow over his lively, intelligent, and supportive fiancé, Bertha, who had her own social battles to fight. This riveting memoir, steeped in time and place, seeks to understand how race relations, class, and the memory of southern defeat in the Civil War produced such a haunting distortion of justice, and how it may figure into our literary imagination. 5 illustrations

In *My Father and Atticus Finch*, Joseph Madison Beck has summoned the ghosts of 1930s Alabama to tell a true courtroom tale of immense honor and complexity. An ode to an enlightened man among the ignorant, and an urgent diagnosis of how racial loathing ruins lives and makes mute the laws meant to protect them, the story of Beck's father is not only an uncanny precedent to *To Kill a Mockingbird* but a stellar achievement in its own right. - William Giraldi, author of *Busy Monsters* and *Hold the Dark* [A] a powerful telling of injustice in a less tolerant time. - Seth Kantner, *Minneapolis Star Tribune* As a lawyer himself, author Beck lays out the circumstances of the case with gripping, almost cinematic detail [F]ascinating. - Bridget Thoreson, *Booklist* A poignant and warmly engaging memoir. - Kirkus An insightful window into the everyday life of small-town Alabama in the 1930s A sad but gripping account. - Ryan Claringbole, *Library Journal* About the Author Joseph Madison Beck is an Atlanta attorney. He also teaches at Emory Law School and has lectured at universities throughout the United States and abroad.