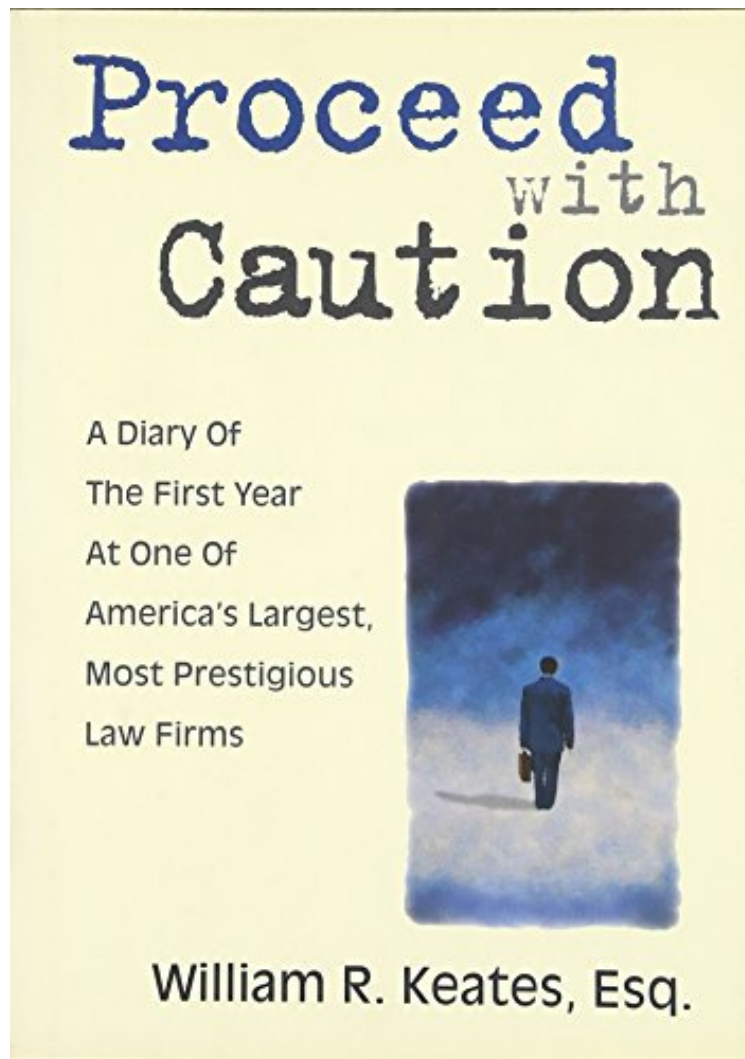


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## Proceed with Caution: A Diary of the First Year at One of America's Largest, Most Prestigious Law Firms

*William R. Keates*

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**William R. Keates : Proceed with Caution: A Diary of the First Year at One of America's Largest, Most Prestigious Law Firms** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Proceed with Caution: A Diary of the First Year at One of America's Largest, Most Prestigious Law Firms:

17 of 20 people found the following review helpful. enough complaining -- find a new jobBy Carol C.The appendix in the back of this book, titled "Starting Salaries for New Associates at the 250 Largest Law Firms in America" explains it all -- it's difficult for the top-performing law students, often saddled with thousands of dollars of student loan debt, to

pass up the signing bonuses, six-figure salaries, and tremendous prestige of big-city large-firm practice, especially when the salaries are often triple or quadruple what one could earn in the public service or government law. Keates is somewhat aware of the drawbacks of big firm practice, yet like many given the opportunity, he goes for the "brass ring" anyway. It doesn't take long for Keates to discover that he hates his job -- and this diary details the path by which his disillusionment about the glamour of the law is dispelled. He quickly discovers that big firm practice can be a 24/7 commitment, being on the hook to fickle partners, fickle clients, and fickle judges, all of which can be extremely stressful. Keates discusses the incidence of depression in lawyers, how one in ten lawyers thinks of suicide at least monthly. The solution to Keates' situation is apparent early on -- move on, find a different job in the law, change fields completely, but that would take the courage to give up the security of the huge paycheck, the Porsche 944, the prestige.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A sincere and true bookBy AIIt's a very well written book, sincere, honest and profound, with accurate research to back up the conclusions made by the author. Unfortunately, it tells the truth about legal profession, the truth most people are not ready to hear. I would recommend it to anyone making a choice to pursue legal career. It will definitely help you to make an informed choice.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining and InformativeBy Book SageHaving practiced law for several years, the material in this book rang true. Many of the insights in this book will come as little surprise to new attorneys or law students, but overall, this book should be given points for style. It packs a lot of information into a couple hundred concise pages. . .

In this title, the author takes you behind the scenes of a large firm, to show you what it is really like to be a junior associate. After graduating from law school, William Keates took a job at a blue-chip New York law firm and started keeping a diary where he wrote down his day-to-day life at the firm. This book excerpts his diary from his first day at the firm to the day he quit. It also intersperses diary entries with useful information about what new lawyers at the country's largest firms do on a daily basis. For additional career resources, visit the AttorneyJobs Web site.