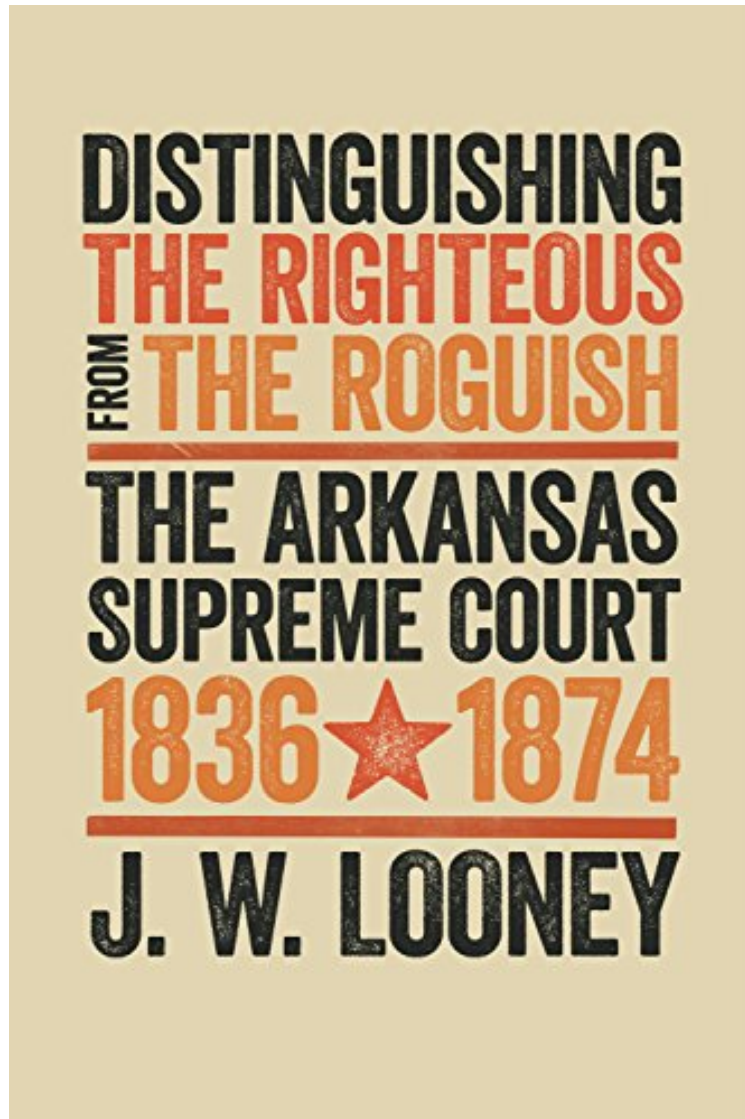


Distinguishing the Righteous from the Roguish: The Arkansas Supreme Court, 18361874

J.W. Looney

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J.W. Looney : Distinguishing the Righteous from the Roguish: The Arkansas Supreme Court, 18361874 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Distinguishing the Righteous from the Roguish: The Arkansas Supreme Court, 18361874:

During the period from 1836 to 1874, the legal system in the new state of Arkansas developed amid huge social change. While the legislature could, and did, determine what issues were considered of importance to the populace, the Arkansas Supreme Court determined the efficacy of legislation in cases involving land titles, banks, transportation, slavery, family law, property, debt, contract, criminal law, and procedure. *Distinguishing the Righteous from the Roguish* examines the courts decisions in this era and shows how Arkansas, as a rural slave-holding state, did not follow the transformational patterns typical of some other states during the nineteenth century. Rather than using the law to promote broad economic growth and encourage social change, the Arkansas court attempted to accommodate the interests of the elite class by preserving the institution of slavery. The ideology of paternalism is reflected in the decisions of the court, and Looney shows how social and political stability an emphasis on preserving the status quo of the so-called righteous came at the expense of broader economic development.

J. W. Looney knows more about antebellum Arkansas supreme court and its jurisprudence than anyone alive. Thank goodness we now have that knowledge in one volume. *Distinguishing the Righteous from the Roguish* will be an incredibly valuable resource for scholars of Arkansas history and the law. Michael Pierce, associate professor of history, University of Arkansas