



# **Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China)**

*Melissa Macauley*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China)

*Melissa Macauley*

## **Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China)** Melissa Macauley

Asserting that litigation in late imperial China was a form of documentary warfare, this book offers a social analysis of the men who composed legal documents for commoners and elites alike. Litigation masters—a broad category of legal facilitators ranging from professional plaintmasters to simple but literate men to whom people turned for assistance—emerge in this study as central players in many of the most scandalous cases in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century China. These cases reveal the power of scandal to shape entire categories of law in the popular and official imaginations.

The author characterizes litigation masters as entrepreneurs of power, intermediaries who typically emerge in the process of limited state expansion to provide links between local interests and the infrastructure of the state. These powermongers routinely acted in the interests of the local elite and the male lineage. But cases preserved in criminal archives also reveal a clientele surprisingly composed of the subordinate actors in legal disputes—widows fighting in-laws and other men, debtors contesting creditors, younger brothers disputing older ones, and common people charging the rich. Challenging earlier scholarship claiming that the Chinese legal system simply maintained the hegemony of elites and the patriarchal order, this study shows how the legal tools of domination were often transformed into weapons of social resistance and revenge.

The book also examines the manifold ways in which legal practice, Confucian ideology, and popular entertainments like opera and storytelling coalesced into Chinese legal culture. Popular traditions in particular did not simply reflect legal culture but actively influenced it, shaping common presumptions about law that transcended differences of class and region. Exploring Chinese legal culture in the structural contexts of commercialization, changes in property transactions, and ineradicable litigation backlogs, the author explains why litigation was condemned by all classes of Chinese men and women even as all classes litigated.

 [Download Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Maste ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) Melissa Macauley**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Katie Martinez:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China). Try to face the book Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) as your close friend. It means that it can being your friend when you experience alone and beside that course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience and knowledge with this book.

#### **Patricia Diaz:**

The publication with title Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) has lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This particular book exist new understanding the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to understand how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you within new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

#### **Brent Abramson:**

Reading a book to be new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to study a book. When you examine a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, these us novel, comics, in addition to soon. The Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) provide you with new experience in reading a book.

#### **Fatima Leonard:**

A lot of people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a book. They are directly felt the item when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose the actual book Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading talent is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the sensation about book and looking at especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to start a book and read it. Beside that the book Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) can to be a newly purchased friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of

the time.

**Download and Read Online Social Power and Legal Culture:  
Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and  
Culture in China) Melissa Macauley #PQHFJSIE0LY**

## **Read Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) by Melissa Macauley for online ebook**

Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) by Melissa Macauley Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) by Melissa Macauley books to read online.

### **Online Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) by Melissa Macauley ebook PDF download**

**Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) by Melissa Macauley Doc**

**Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) by Melissa Macauley Mobipocket**

**Social Power and Legal Culture: Litigation Masters in Late Imperial China (Law, Society, and Culture in China) by Melissa Macauley EPub**