

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777614303321
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Titolo	Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. // G. Edward White
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, New York : , : Oxford University Press, , 2006 ©2006
ISBN	0-19-772005-6 0-19-029408-6 1-280-53475-3 0-19-972690-6 1-4294-0359-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (viii, 161 p.) : ill
Collana	Lives and Legacies
Altri autori (Persone)	WhiteG. Edward
Disciplina	347.732634
Soggetti	Judges - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Formerly CIP.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The family legacy -- Our hearts were touched with fire : the Civil War years -- The practical struggle of life : becoming a lawyer and a judge -- The quiet years -- A more important and more visible court -- A new and solemn volume opens -- An unlikely reformer -- The yankee from Olympus -- Toward melancholy : the retirement years.
Sommario/riassunto	This biography of one of the most important figures ever to sit on the United States Supreme Court traces Holmes's life from his early years in Boston, his undergraduate years in Harvard, his service in the Civil War and into legal practice. It then focuses on his 30 years service as a Supreme Court Justice.