

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910782773403321
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Titolo	American Lawyers [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University Press, 1991
ISBN	1-280-44133-X 0-19-802185-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (423 p.)
Disciplina	340/.023/73
Soggetti	Lawyers Practice of law Practice of law - United States Lawyers - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS; 1. INTRODUCTION; 2. THEORIES OF THE PROFESSIONS; 3. CONTROLLING THE PRODUCTION OF LAWYERS; 4. THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONTROLLING ENTRY; 5. RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES: CONTROLLING PRODUCTION BY PRODUCERS; 6. DEMAND CREATION: A NEW STRATEGY IN THE PROFESSIONAL PROJECT?; 7. SELF-REGULATION; 8. HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS THE PROFESSIONAL PROJECT?; 9. DIFFERENTIATION WITHIN THE LEGAL PROFESSION; 10. REPRODUCING THE PROFESSION; 11. THE FUTURE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION; TABLES; NOTES; BIBLIOGRAPHY; INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	This detailed portrait of American lawyers traces their efforts to professionalize during the last 100 years by erecting barriers to control the quality and quantity of entrants. Abel describes the rise and fall of restrictive practices that dampened competition among lawyers and with outsiders. He shows how lawyers simultaneously sought to increase access to justice while stimulating demand for services, and their efforts to regulate themselves while forestalling external control. Data on income and status illuminate the success of these efforts. Charting the dramatic transformation of the