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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 313-320) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The institutionalization of the Supreme Court law clerk -- A great ordeal : selecting Supreme Court law clerks -- The junior court : deciding to decide -- Decision making : mission-inspired crusaders? -- Opinion writing : from research assistants to junior justices -- Sorcerers' apprentices.
Sommario/riassunto	Law clerks have been a permanent fixture in the halls of the United States Supreme Court from its founding, but the relationship between clerks and their justices has generally been cloaked in secrecy. While the role of the justice is both public and formal, particularly in terms of the decisions a justice makes and the power that he or she can wield in the American political system, the clerk has historically operated behind closed doors. Do clerks make actual decisions that they impart to justices, or are they only research assistants that carry out the instructions of the decision makers-th