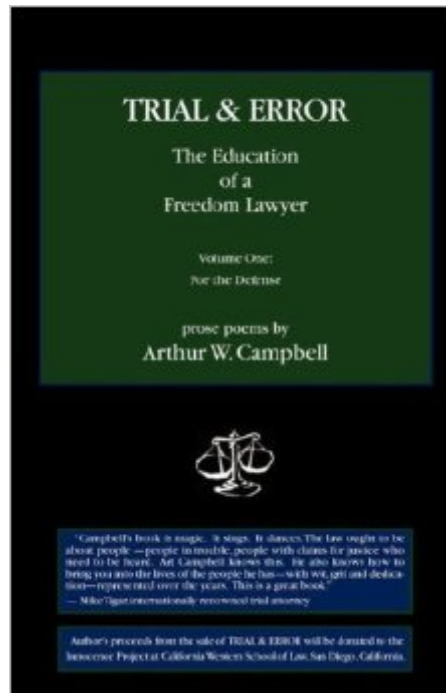


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# TRIAL & ERROR The Education Of A Freedom Lawyer



## Synopsis

Poetry. Nominated for the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards 2007. "Art Campbell provides us with brilliant flashes of insight into the mysterious workings of the legal system. His prose poems are heart-wrenching, powerful, compelling. As an insider, Campbell is in a unique position to provide vivid glimpses at the colorful characters on both sides of the law. His prose poems are full of compassion and a generosity of spirit. In sharing with us his 'tales from the trenches,' he reveals the heart and soul of a young trial lawyer"--Nancy Kim, lawyer and author of the critically acclaimed novel *Chinhominey's Secret*.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #355,011 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in [Books > Law > Ethics & Professional Responsibility](#) #2545 in [Books > Textbooks > Law](#) #4287 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry](#)

## Customer Reviews

I feel compelled to write a review about this trilogy of books. When I first laid eyes on the cover of the first volume, I said to myself, "Prose poetry about criminal law? Seriously? This I gotta see!" Wasn't sure what to expect: how does one write poetry about criminal law in a way that could fill an entire book? Would it contain clever limericks? Moral tales? Would it be classic poetry with careful rhymes, or more of a modern piece with unusual punctuation or abstract imagery? Wasn't sure what would wait in those pages, but if someone wrote poetry about a topic like criminal law, there's no way I wasn't going to take a look at what that would be. The first book immediately sucked me in and didn't let me out until I turned the last page. Describing this trilogy is not easy, but I will try. First, the style is closer to prose than to traditional poetry, so there is no rhyming, sing-song, or limericks, or any of what some might expect when they see the word "poem." Instead, it is a rhythmic telling of a series of true tales. You forget you are reading poetry. It feels like pure

storytelling. The reader feels rapt, like a young child at story time. The phrasing and tempo traps you into an alternate reality where you become the author (who is the main character) as he journeys from his first experiences in the courtroom through his last major trial. Based on true stories of actual criminal cases and trials, I can safely say that the stories are of the category titled: "You can't make stuff like this up." The writers behind shows like Law & Order could not have come up with a more interesting path through the foibles of human behavior. There are no good guys, no bad guys, no geniuses, no dunces, no villains, and no heroes.

Here are some professional reviews sent to my publisher: "Campbell's book is magic. It sings. It dances. The law ought to be about people-- people in trouble, people with claims for justice who need to be heard. Art Campbell knows this. He also knows how to bring you into the lives of the people he has-- with wit, grit and dedication-- represented over the years. This is a great book. " -- Mike Tigar, internationally renowned trial attorney. "Professor Campbell's Trial & Error reads like a fast paced work of fiction with fascinating real life experiences, laced with poetry. I am grateful that he had the insight to record and preserve these images from his life so that the public and a generation of lawyers will have the unique opportunity to peek into his past and share these vivid courtroom scenes, his keen wit and his growth as a burgeoning attorney. Campbell's journey, while sometimes painful, is remarkable for the intensity of his feelings and his single minded desire to always improve. And improve he does as we watch the birth of an outstanding lawyer. Sit back, read this book and be prepared an exciting tour through the eyes of a truly talented person." -- Mario Conte, former Executive Director of Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. "Art Campbell provides us with brilliant flashes of insight into the mysterious workings of the legal system. His prose poems are heart-wrenching, powerful, compelling. As an insider, Campbell is in a unique position to provide vivid glimpses at the colorful characters on both sides of the law. His prose poems are full of compassion and a generosity of spirit. In sharing with us his 'tales from the trenches,' he reveals the heart and soul of a young trial lawyer.

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