

# *Contents*

<b>Introduction</b>	1
Historiography	4
Rethinking Weimar political justice	12
Definitions and sources	13
Chapter structure	15
<b>1. The Rosa Luxemburg Trials of 1914 and the Emergence     of the Ideal Type of the Weimar Party Lawyer</b>	17
Wilhelmine legal culture and its discontents	19
‘The best outcome is that where the party profits the most’: The militarism trial and the revolution in Social Democrat defending	33
Conclusion	44
<b>2. ‘Nursing Revolutionary Fighters’ and ‘Legal SA-Duty’: Ten Political Lawyers</b>	45
Biographies	51
Patterns of professional development	61
‘Cleaning the toilet for Uncle Scrooge’: party lawyers vs. their non-political peers	79
Conclusion	89
<b>3. ‘To Fight the Class Struggle with the Bourgeois Courts with All Acridity’: the Communist Party Legal Organization</b>	92
Communist legal aid: evolution and organizational structure	98
Communist legal aid in practice	106
Lawyers as agents of party control	123
Conclusion	131
<b>4. The Compliment of Imitation: The Rise of National-Socialist Legal Organizations</b>	133
(Mis-)Managing the Rathenau trial: The Reich League of German Nationalist Trial Lawyers	135
Symbols without substance? The Patriotic Prisoners Aid/National Emergency Aid	141
The Association of National Socialist German Lawyers	151
<b>5. Performing Ideology: Rethinking Weimar Political Justice</b>	171
The performativity of justice and German legal culture	173
‘Better propaganda of the deed than the offence itself’: political trials in the public sphere	180

Political trials and the aestheticization of politics	194
Conclusion	211
<b>Conclusion</b>	214
‘Losing with a splash’	215
The end of the story: party lawyers after 1933	220
Weimar as a stick to beat Bonn: a plea to retire some historiographical clichés	224
Party lawyers on the <i>Sonderweg</i> ?	227
Orestes vs. the Furies or how to perform judicial legitimacy	229
<i>Appendix A: Party Allegiance of 36 Prominent Political Lawyers in the Weimar Republic</i>	232
<i>Appendix B: Occupation of 100 Lay Magistrates in Political Trials</i>	233
<i>Appendix C: The Hierarchy of the German Court System</i>	235
<i>Bibliography</i>	237
<i>Index</i>	249