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LAW AND JUSTICE IN THE COURTS OF CLASSICAL ATHENS

In *Law and Justice in the Courts of Classical Athens*, Adriaan Lanni draws on contemporary legal thinking to present a new model of the legal system of classical Athens. She analyzes the Athenians' preference in most cases for *ad hoc*, discretionary decision making, as opposed to what moderns would call the rule of law. Lanni argues that the Athenians consciously employed different approaches to legal decision making in different types of courts. The varied approaches to the legal process stem from a deep tension in Athenian practice and thinking, between the demand for flexibility of legal interpretation consistent with the exercise of democratic power by Athenian jurors and the advantages of consistency and predictability. Lanni presents classical Athens as a case study of a sophisticated legal system with an extraordinarily individualized and discretionary approach to justice.

Adriaan Lanni is assistant professor of law at Harvard Law School. A former member of the Harvard Society of Fellows, she holds a law degree from Yale Law School and a Ph.D. in ancient history from the University of Michigan. She is a scholar of ancient law and modern criminal law and procedure.

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TO THE MEMORY OF
MIKE LANNI
1941–1992

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