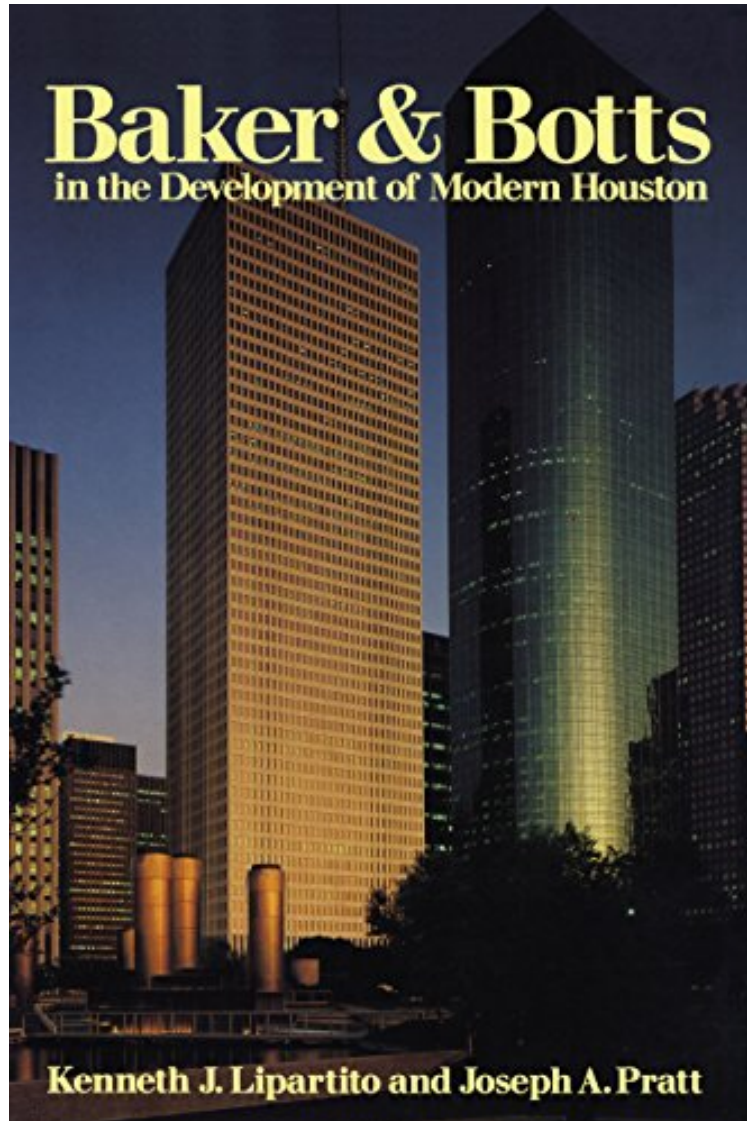


[Free] Baker Botts in the Development of Modern Houston

Baker Botts in the Development of Modern Houston

Kenneth J. Lipartito, Joseph A. Pratt
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Kenneth J. Lipartito, Joseph A. Pratt : Baker Botts in the Development of Modern Houston before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Baker Botts in the Development of Modern Houston:

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As counsel for Pennzoil's successful effort to recover billions of dollars in damages from Texaco over the acquisition

of Getty Oil Company, the Baker Botts law firm of Houston, Texas, achieved wide public recognition in the 1980s. But among its peers in the legal and corporate worlds, Baker Botts has for more than a century held a preeminent position, handling the legal affairs of such blue-chip clients as the Southern Pacific Railroad, Houston Lighting Power Company, Rice University, Texas Commerce Bank, and Tenneco. In this study, Kenneth J. Lipartito and Joseph A. Pratt chronicle the history of Baker Botts, placing particular emphasis on the firm's role in Houston's economic development. Founded in 1840, Baker Botts literally grew up with Houston. The authors chart its evolution from a nineteenth-century regional firm that represented eastern-based corporations moving into Texas to a twentieth-century national firm with clients throughout the world. They honestly discuss the criticisms that Baker Botts has faced as an advocate of big business. But they also identify the important impact that corporate law firms of this type have on business reorganization and government regulation. As the authors demonstrate in this case study, law firms throughout the twentieth century have helped to shape public policy in these critical areas. Always prominent in the community, and with prominent connections (former Secretary of State James A. Baker III is the great-grandson of the original Baker), the Baker Botts law firm belongs in any history of the development of Houston and the Southwest.

About the Author Kenneth J. Lipartito is Professor of History and Department Chair at Florida International University. Joseph A. Pratt is Cullen Professor of History and Business at the University of Houston.