

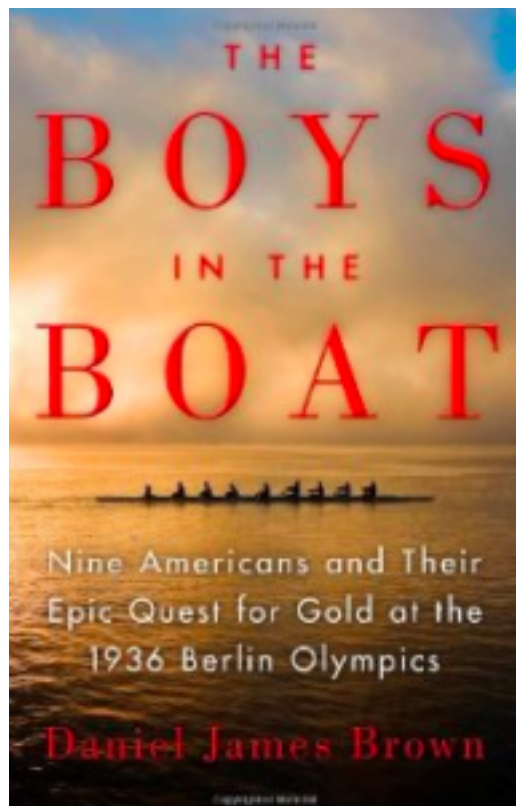
[Recommended Reading: The Boys in the Boat](#)

By [Cordell Parvin](#) on August 22nd, 2014

On Fridays, I have been recommending books. Last Friday, I recommended [Unbroken](#).

Today I recommend [The Boys in the Boat](#) by [Daniel James Brown](#). I am listening to the book currently. Once again the narrator is [Edward Herrmann](#) and he does an excellent job bringing the story to life.

My thanks to [Fox Rothschild](#) partner, [Jacqueline Carolan](#) for both recommendations.



On his website, Daniel James Brown describes the book this way:

The Boys in the Boat celebrates the 1936 U.S. men's Olympic eight-oar rowing team—nine working class boys who stormed the rowing world, transformed the sport, and galvanized the attention of millions of Americans.

Why should you read this book?

I think you will get two important points from the book.

1. Crew, perhaps more than any other sport requires teamwork.
2. Those featured in the book pushed themselves to individual and collective excellence.

I found a USA Today article: [Rowing teaches teamwork lessons](#) from 10 years ago focusing on the teamwork required for Crew and how it relates to business. I hope you will read the article. I found this quote insightful.

Leaders must understand that team building is as much exclusive as it is inclusive. In sports and business, lives aren't on the line. But team bonds are established the same way. I hate to use the word, but high-performance teams are cults. You're on a mission from God. That's what appealing to the spirit is all about. Everyone wants to be a part of something bigger. That's their greatest desire.

I found another article I recommend: [Lessons in teamwork from rowing](#). I was inspired by these words in the article:

That excitement and physicality is undoubtedly part of any rower's experience. But talk to them about the most important teamwork lessons they've taken from the sport and they will begin to speak of values: trust, dedication, selflessness, determination, honesty and commitment. In truth the list could be longer. Ultimately it is a transformational experience, not only in the sense of taking an individual's performance to a level they may only have dreamt was possible, but also how the spirit of teamwork transcends a person's ego.

What a great combination for lawyers in a law firm. Are your lawyers part of a transformational experience and are your lawyers taking their performance to a level they may only have dreamt was possible? Does the spirit of teamwork in your firm transcend your lawyers' ego? Finally, do your lawyers, more than anything else, want to be part of something bigger than their individual practices?

If so, I want to practice law in your firm.

Cordell Parvin Blog

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Cordell M. Parvin built a national construction practice during his 35 years practicing law. At *Jenkins & Gilchrist*, Mr. Parvin was the Construction Law Practice Group Leader and was also responsible for the firm's attorney development practice. While there he taught client development and created a coaching program for junior partners. In 2005, Mr. Parvin left the firm and started Cordell Parvin LLC. He now works with lawyers and law firms on career development and planning and client development. He is the co-author of *Say Ciao to Chow Mein: Conquering Career Burnout* and other books for lawyers. To learn more visit his Web site, www.cordellparvin.com or contact him at cparvin@cordellparvin.com.