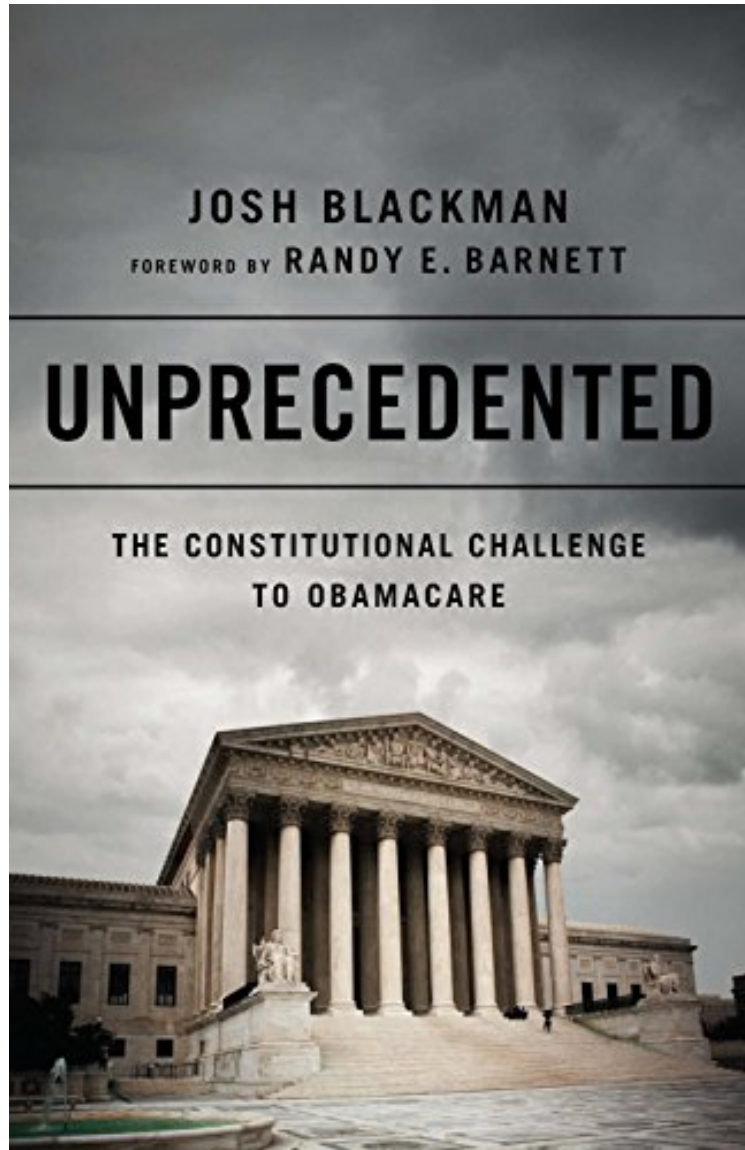


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Unprecedented: The Constitutional Challenge to Obamacare

Josh Blackman

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Josh Blackman : Unprecedented: The Constitutional Challenge to Obamacare before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unprecedented: The Constitutional Challenge to Obamacare:

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. An *unprecedented* legal-political thriller! By Tim
October Unprecedented is a genre-bending legal-political thriller. At times the book is detailed, nuanced, and deep; at others, it is breathtakingly fast-paced and dramatic. From Justice Kagan's mysterious decision to wall herself off from the case, to a look behind the scenes of the secret deliberations of the highest court in the land, Unprecedented gives a

month-by-month, sometimes minute-by-minute (and even second-by-second!) account of the case of the millennium. Professor Blackman's highly readable style, excitement about the case, and affection for the actors involved blend to create an auspicious early masterwork from a highly promising young legal talent. Unprecedented is unprecedented. Unlike so many legal dramas that can feel dry and abstract, Unprecedented makes it feel like you're there for some of the most important and critical decisions leading up to one of the most important moments in the history of the United States -- the moment the Chief Justice of the United States affirmed the constitutionality of "the last piece of our basic social compact." I actually choked up as the book described those tense uncertain moments when the President and the Nation thought Obamacare had fallen, and the crowd outside began cheering for the Constitution. Now how many law books can you say made you feel something like that? 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating for Lawyers and Laymen Alike! By Seth Though I consider myself a well-informed student of politics, this book taught me a great deal about the history of this controversial new law -- who had proposed it in the past, who had opposed it, and who had favored it. I was stunned to find that both parties had taken both sides on the individual mandate in the last twenty years. Prof. Blackman explains the legal issues surrounding the case with just enough history in a way that a layman can easily understand and a lawyer, such as myself, can easily learn from. I already have people who want to borrow the book from me! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Like a John Grisham Legal Thriller, But Real! By PJ If you want to learn everything about how Obamacare was passed, how the Supreme Court saved it, and what this means for the future of the Constitution, you should read this amazing new book. Unlike far too many books about constitutional law, Unprecedented is written in an engaging, gripping style. Blackman actually tells the story in the form of a riveting legal thriller. You'd think it's a John Grisham novel, but it's real! Read this book. You will enjoy it.

Foreword by Randy E. Barnett In 2012, the United States Supreme Court became the center of the political world. In a dramatic and unexpected 5-4 decision, Chief Justice John Roberts voted on narrow grounds to save the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare. Unprecedented tells the inside story of how the challenge to Obamacare raced across all three branches of government, and narrowly avoided a constitutional collision between the Supreme Court and President Obama. On November 13, 2009, a group of Federalist Society lawyers met in the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., to devise a legal challenge to the constitutionality of President Obama's legacy healthcare reform. It seemed a very long shot, and was dismissed peremptorily by the White House, much of Congress, most legal scholars, and all of the media. Two years later the fight to overturn the Affordable Care Act became a political and legal firestorm. When, finally, the Supreme Court announced its ruling, the judgment was so surprising that two cable news channels misreported it and announced that the Act had been declared unconstitutional. Unprecedented offers unrivaled inside access to how key decisions were made in Washington, based on interviews with over one hundred of the people who lived this journey including the academics who began the challenge, the attorneys who litigated the case at all levels, and Obama administration attorneys who successfully defended the law. It reads like a political thriller, provides the definitive account of how the Supreme Court almost struck down President Obama's unprecedented healthcare law, and explains what this decision means for the future of the Constitution, the limits on federal power, and the Supreme Court.

From Booklist The pitched legal battle to end the national health-care program known as Obamacare ended in a surprising decision supported by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts, a decision that promises continued strife on the issue of health care as well as constitutional issues. Blackman, law professor, blogger, and representative of a coalition of independent business interests opposed to the program, spent more than two years following the legislative process that produced Obamacare and the legal challenges to the program. Blackman argues that the process was unprecedented in many ways, including the nature of the legislation to compel citizens to buy insurance, the legal arguments for and against, and the political pressure brought to bear on the Left and the Right. He details the political machinations behind the Supreme Court decision in favor of the health-care program, particularly pressure on Roberts. Blackman also explores the significance of the decision as a galvanizing issue for conservatives and future implications for challenges to government power. --Vanessa Bush "Excellent"