

Professor Dow's book, *The Autobiography of an Execution*, was the focus of a book review posted on Publishers Weekly's website.

The following book review was posted on Publishers Weekly's website on Monday, October 12, 2009:

**The Autobiography of an Execution David R. Dow. Hachette/Twelve, \$24.99 (274p)
ISBN 978-0-446-56206-5**

In an argument against capital punishment, Dow's capable memoir partially gathers its steam from the emotional toll on all parties involved, especially the overworked legal aid lawyers and their desperate clients. The author, the litigation director of the Texas Defender Service and a professor at the University of Houston Law Center, respects the notion of attorney-client privilege in this handful of real-life legal outcomes, some of them quite tragic, while acknowledging executions are "not about the attorneys," but "about the victims of murder and sometimes their killers." While trying to maintain a proper balance in his marriage to Katya, a fellow attorney and ballroom dancer, he spells out the maze of legal mumbo-jumbo to get his clients stays or released from confinement in the cases of a hapless Vietnam vet who shot a child, another man who beat his pregnant wife to death and another who killed his wife and children. In the end, Dow's book is a sobering, gripping and candid look into the death penalty. (Feb.)