With All
Deliberate
Speed
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The Life of Philip Elman
An Oral History Memoir

by Norman I. Silber

In Mr. Elman’s words, based on interviews at the Columbia University Oral History Research Office

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NOTE TO THE READER

This book is written in the form of an autobiographical memoir: a subjective, hopefully informative and entertaining account that presents an unusual view of people, law, and legal institutions. It is in Philip Elman’s first-person voice because it developed out of oral history interviews I conducted with Mr. Elman, and from our correspondence and conversations in later years.

The original interviews were conducted at the Columbia University Oral History Research Office during 1983 and 1984, so that references to the current occupations of people, or to the events of “today,” refer to the period between July 1983 and June 1984. Columbia University holds the copyright in the interviews and has permitted me to use those portions of the interviews that are presented here. A discussion of the interviews and the evolution of the form of this manuscript is contained in the concluding chapter.

Each chapter contains a narration by Phil, followed by a commentary that combines interpretation with a glossary and references. The entries appear in roughly the same order in which Phil discusses the subjects to which the commentary refers. The entries are designed to be browsed or read after each chapter’s narrative. Readers can consult the index at the back of the book at any time to locate people, subjects, or cases of interest.