

Acknowledgments

One of the great pleasures in writing this book has been the thought-provoking conversations it has stimulated with both old friends and new acquaintances. To all who have shared their thoughts with me, named and unnamed, I offer my warm thanks.

The person to whom I am most indebted is my wife, Marion Kaplan. Her companionship has enriched me in far more ways than I could hope to express; in connection with this project in particular, she has been the first person to listen to my thoughts, test them, debate them, and force me to refine them. Over the years, she has talked with me about this project more often than I care to admit (and perhaps than she may care to remember). She has offered insights, vast historical knowledge, and steady encouragement.

I express deep appreciation to Max Hirschberg's son, Dr. Erich Hirschberg. He has graciously provided me access to his father's unpublished works, given me copies of hard-to-find articles, and answered my questions. At my request, he read a draft of the manuscript and made stylistic recommendations, but in keeping with his humility and decency, he never tried to influence my interpretations or suggest that I change anything of substance. I am grateful if knowing Erich Hirschberg has given me another taste of Max Hirschberg. More important, I value, for its own sake, the relationship I have developed with him.

I would usually reserve for people the kind of thanks I here express to an institution, the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullmann Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. As a fellow there for the academic year of 2001–2, I was able to finish my research and complete my first draft. The Center provided me with a series of precious opportunities: time away from practicing law to devote exclusively to the book, access to the resources of one of the world's finest libraries, and stimulation from the other fellows. I am particularly grateful to several fellows who took time out from their work to read

portions of mine: Andrea Barrett, Claudine Cohen, Laura Engelstein, Susan Jacoby, and David Waldstreicher. Maarten Brands not only read several chapters but followed up by volunteering to read even more—an expression of generosity and support that I found moving. I thank the assistant director, Pamela Leo, who has done so much—with her many talents, kindness, and aplomb—to keep the Cullmann Center floating. I thank the many librarians at the New York Public Library; they are an extraordinary group who devote great skill and hard work to assisting the public at large.

I am particularly indebted to the director of the Cullmann Center, Peter Gay. As the Center's spiritual father and then its guardian angel in the academic year after the September 11 tragedy, he maintained an atmosphere of harmony, peace, and goodwill; as a scholar and critic of boundless breath, he engaged all the fellows with his erudition, passion, and compassion; and in his attention to my work in particular, he prodded me forward with both broad ideas and detailed comments. I am grateful for his devotion to the Cullman Center, for his help in this project, and for our friendship.

Three scholars—Volker Berghahn, Renate Bridenthal, and Bernhard Schlink—have selflessly provided me with the invaluable type of criticisms that can come only from reading the manuscript in full. The time they devoted was matched only by the cogency of their comments. They have each shown the rare quality of providing incisive and critical commentary while maintaining the kindness that has sustained long-lasting friendships.

A scholar and friend who has provided assistance beyond what I could ever have expected and should ever have requested is Werner T. Angress. He has patiently sat with me deciphering documents written in old German handwriting and, while doing that, provided his commentary and thoughts. Each time I asked him to help me in this painstaking process, I was touched by the way he approached it with such seriousness of purpose and good spirits. I also express my thanks to Reinhard Weber (the editor of Max Hirschberg's memoirs), who offered valuable tips about researching Hirschberg and lively conversation about his life and times; to Hannah Schissler, who facilitated my contacts with archives in Germany while I was in the United States; to Robert Lapidus, for his timely suggestions after reading an early draft of a beginning chapter; to David Clay Large, for his perceptive reading of chapters on Munich after World War I; and to the two anonymous reviewers for the University of Michigan Press, for thought-provoking comments that inspired me to continue revising.

The archives in Germany and the United States have consistently gone out of their way to be helpful. I am particularly indebted to the archivists who have helped time and again at the Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv in Munich, the Staatsarchiv München, the Staatsarchiv Bamberg, and the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. I also thank Columbia University Law School Library for regularly providing me access to its wonderful collection of German legal material. Grateful acknowledgment is made to the Oldenbourg Wissenschaftsverlag for permission to use material from *Jude und Demokrat: Erinnerungen eines Münchener Rechtsanwalts, 1883–1939*, edited by Reinhard Weber (Munich, 1998); to the Houghton Library, Harvard University, for permission to publish manuscript material from Hirschberg’s “Mein Leben in Deutschland vor und nach dem 30. Januar 1933” (BMS Ger 91 (97)); to the Stadtarchiv München for permission to publish the photo of Hirschberg at the Stab-in-the-Back trial; and to Erich Hirschberg for his permission to publish material from his father’s unpublished manuscripts and the sketch of his father.

I have profited from almost fifteen years of camaraderie and learning from my colleagues at the Federal Defender Division of the Legal Aid Society in the Eastern District of New York. While they all stand out, I owe a special debt of gratitude to Thomas Concannon, who provided me with the same kind of down-to-earth, commonsense, and emotionally supportive advice that has made him loved by so many. I have also had the honor and challenge of representing criminal defendants before the judges in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, an extraordinarily intelligent, dedicated, and fair-minded group of judges. I am deeply grateful for and humbled by the support of two towering judicial figures in particular, the Honorable David G. Trager and the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein.

While I began this work as a book, several colleagues urged me to explore the possibility of also submitting it as a dissertation. I thank the Department of History at the University of Rochester—where, more than twenty years ago, I completed all the other requirements for a PhD in modern European history—for agreeing to reenroll me in their graduate program and accepting an earlier version of this book as my dissertation. Everyone there went above and beyond the call of duty in facilitating that process, especially the ever-cheerful, energetic, and helpful secretary of graduate studies, Helen Hull, and Professor Celia Applegate, who generously agreed to serve as my graduate advisor and then rounded off that generosity with thoughtful comments and warm encouragement.

Finally—and most important of all—I wish to thank my family: my son, Joshua; my daughter, Ruth; and my wife, Marion (whom I intentionally mention a second time, knowing that it is still not nearly enough). They have filled my life with love, affection, and laughter. They have looked on this project with a healthy balance of emotional support, bemusement, and well-timed teasing. This project has been important, but they are the world to me.