

In the News

O'Melveny's Bliss Authors "Mark Twain's Tale of Today: Halley's Comet Returns--The Celebrated Author Critiques American Politics"



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Retired O'Melveny & Myers LLP partner Donald Tiffany Bliss is the author of *Mark Twain's Tale of Today: Halley's Comet Returns--The Celebrated Author Critiques American Politics*, a new book recently published by Hale & Notham LLC and CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. The book traces the evolution of Twain's views about politics, government, capitalism, foreign policy and American-style democracy and notes the parallels between Twain's 19th Century experience and contemporary American politics. The title is a play on the title of Twain's first novel about congressional corruption and market speculation, *The Gilded Age, A Tale of To-Day*.

Bliss, a descendant of Elisha and Walter Bliss, Mark Twain's publishers at the American Publishing company, explains how Twain's insightful commentary and proposed solutions to the problems of the Gilded Age continue to be relevant to the challenges facing American democracy today. He notes that Twain warned against politicians who put loyalty to party above loyalty to country, the crippling gridlock of partisan trench warfare, the corrupting influence of money in the legislative process, and the danger of political campaigns that distort the issues and demonize the opposition, and once said, "If we would learn what the human race really is at bottom, we need only observe it at election time."

Bliss served for 13 years in the federal government in four administrations and practiced law with O'Melveny in Washington, DC for three decades. He is a former US Ambassador, having served as the Representative of the United States on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal, Canada. Bliss is the author of *The Law of Airline Customer Relations, Stability, Security, Safety and Service*, Hale & Northam (2002), and is co-author of *Counsel for the Situation, Shaping the Law to Realize America's Promise*, Brookings Press (2010), which tells the story of the life of O'Melveny & Myers' senior counselor The Honorable William T. Coleman, Jr., a great American lawyer who broke many barriers.

Mark Twain's Tale of Today is available on Amazon.com. The opinions of Mark Twain and Bliss do not reflect the positions of O'Melveny & Myers or its lawyers.