



Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice

By Sidney Powell

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Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice By Sidney Powell

A tragic suicide, a likely murder, wrongful imprisonment, and gripping courtroom scenes draw readers into this compelling story giving them a frightening perspective on justice corrupted and who should be accountable when evidence is withheld. *Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice* is the true story of the strong-arm, illegal, and unethical tactics used by headline-grabbing federal prosecutors in their narcissistic pursuit of power. Its scope reaches from the US Department of Justice to the US Senate, the FBI, and the White House. This true story is a scathing attack on corrupt prosecutors, the judges who turned a blind eye to these injustices, and the president who has promoted them to powerful political positions.

From the Foreword

This book should serve as the beginning of a serious conversation about whether our criminal justice system continues to live up to its vaunted reputation. As citizens of a free society, we all have an important stake in making sure that it does.

-- Alex Kozinski, Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Licensed to Lie reads like a cross between investigative journalism and courtroom drama. The takeaway is that both Bushies and Obamaites should be very afraid: over the last few years, a coterie of vicious and unethical prosecutors who are unfit to practice law has been harbored within and enabled by the now ironically named Department of Justice." --William Hodes, Professor of Law Emeritus, Indiana University, and coauthor, *The Law of Lawyering*

"When you've finished reading this fast-paced thriller, you will want to stand up and applaud Powell's courage in daring to shine light into the darkest recesses of America's justice system. The only ax Powell grinds here is Truth." --Patricia Falvey, author of *The Yellow House* and *The Linen Queen*, and former Managing Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP

"Last year four government officials demonstrably lied under oath, and nothing has been done to them--two IRS officials, the Attorney General, and James Clapper--which caused Ed Snowden to release the fact that the US is spying on its citizens and in violation of the 4th amendment. That our government is corrupt is the only conclusion. This book helps the people understand the nature of this corruption--and how it is possible for federal prosecutors to indict and convict the innocent rather than the guilty." --Victor Sperandeo, CEO and author, *Trader Vic: Methods of a Wall Street Master*

"This book is a testament to the human will to struggle against overwhelming odds to right a wrong and a cautionary tale to all--that true justice doesn't just exist as an abstraction apart from us. True justice is us, making it real through our own actions and our own vigilance against the powerful who cavalierly threaten to take it away." --Michael Adams, PhD, University Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor of English Associate Director, James A. Michener Center for Writers, University of Texas--Austin

"I have covered hundreds of court cases over the years and have witnessed far too often the kind of duplicity and governmental heavy-handedness Ms. Powell describes in her well-written book, *Licensed to Lie*." --Hugh Aynesworth, journalist, historian, four-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, author, *November 22, 1963: Witness to History*

Review

KIRKUS REVIEW

A former Justice Department lawyer, who now devotes her private practice to federal appeals, dissects some of the most politically contentious prosecutions of the last 15 years.

Powell assembles a stunning argument for the old adage, "nothing succeeds like failure," as she traces the careers of a group of prosecutors who were part of the Enron Task Force. The Supreme Court overturned their most dramatic court victories, and some were even accused of systematic prosecutorial misconduct. Yet former task force members such as Kathryn Ruemmler, Matthew Friedrich and Andrew Weissman continued

to climb upward through the ranks and currently hold high positions in the Justice Department, FBI and even the White House. Powell took up the appeal of a Merrill Lynch employee who was convicted in one of the subsidiary Enron cases, fighting for six years to clear his name. The pattern of abuse she found was repeated in other cases brought by the task force. Prosecutors of the accounting firm Arthur Andersen pieced together parts of different statutes to concoct a crime and eliminated criminal intent from the jury instructions, which required the Supreme Court to reverse the Andersen conviction 9-0; the company was forcibly closed with the loss of 85,000 jobs. In the corruption trial of former Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens, a key witness was intimidated into presenting false testimony, and as in the Merrill Lynch case, the prosecutors concealed exculpatory evidence from the defense, a violation of due process under the Supreme court's 1963 *Brady v. Maryland* decision. Stevens' conviction, which led to a narrow loss in his 2008 re-election campaign and impacted the majority makeup of the Senate, seems to have been the straw that broke the camel's back; the presiding judge appointed a special prosecutor to investigate abuses. Confronted with the need to clean house as he came into office, writes Powell, Attorney General Eric Holder has yet to take action.

The author brings the case for judicial redress before the court of public opinion.

Review

Reviewed by John Senger
May 27, 2014

Powell has done the law and every citizen a great favor by calling out an unholy practice of government attorneys.

Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice, by defense attorney Sidney Powell, is a lurid tale of deceit and amoral behavior on the part of government prosecutors. It is so well written and researched that the story makes for a stunning read.

Powell is an experienced trial and appellate court attorney. She has an ability to make complex legal and related factual issues clear to the most casual reader and has applied these skills to revealing the practice of US attorneys deliberately suppressing evidence that reflects the innocence of a defendant. This practice is rampant, Powell argues, despite the prosecutors' constitutional duty to disclose such evidence. As examples of the havoc this practice wreaks, Powell discusses the prosecution of former Alaska senator Ted Stevens and the work of the Federal Special Task Force appointed in the wake of the financial collapse of Enron in 2001, among other cases. Powell pulls no punches. She calls out by name the prosecutors she believes engaged in unethical and deceitful behavior. She is adept at keeping several plots moving in parallel worlds. When necessary, she provides direct quotes from trial transcripts and court orders to support her arguments.

This sad story also reveals how Powell lost faith in the justice system she served, having represented an individual she believed was wrongly convicted in matters relating to the Enron scandal. In a spectacular epilogue, Powell outlines what has become of the various players involved in the proceedings she chronicled in the book. Several of the miscreants escaped punishment and, in fact, were promoted.

As a US attorney, Powell has prosecuted about 350 criminal cases. During her career, she had the utmost faith in the criminal justice system and particularly the US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in Texas. In a candid admission at the end of the book, she notes, "As for me, I question deeply whether I can continue to practice law. I have lost trust and faith that most of the Fifth Circuit judges will do the tedious work, keep an open mind, put ideology aside, rule based solely on the law, and ferret out the true facts in the most difficult cases if it means ruling against the government. If one can be heartbroken by a court, I am."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nick Jansen:

The event that you get from Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice is the more deep you looking the information that hide inside words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood through anyone who read the item because the author of this book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this particular Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice instantly.

Thomas Barreto:

Why? Because this Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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