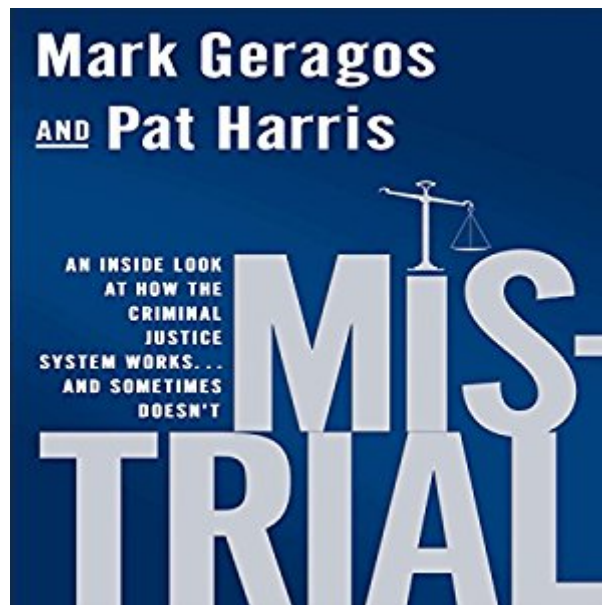




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Mistrial: An Inside Look At How The Criminal Justice System Works...and Sometimes Doesn't



Synopsis

The American legal system changed dramatically when the OJ Simpson trial became a television-ratings bonanza. Now it's all crime, all the time, from tabloid news to police procedurals. Americans now know more about the criminal justice system than ever before. Or do they? In *Mistrial*, Mark Geragos and Pat Harris argue precisely the opposite: In pursuit of sensationalism, the public sees only a small, distorted sample of what really happens in our courtrooms. Geragos and Harris debunk the myth of impartial American justice - from stealth jurors who secretly swing for a conviction to cops who regularly lie on the witness stand. Ultimately, the authors question whether a justice system model drawn up two centuries ago is still viable today. Geragos and Harris are legal experts and prominent criminal defense attorneys who have worked on everything from celebrity media circuses to equally compelling cases defending individuals desperate to avoid the spotlight. *Mistrial* gives a behind-the-scenes peek that reveals their most fascinating cases, enthralling legal eagles and armchair litigators alike, as it blows the lid off what really happens in a courtroom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Half of the book is of the two authors' experience on defense teams for high profile/celebrity cases. Some of those cases were very interesting (Michael Jackson's), others not so much. The book illuminates on the in's and out's, and near art form, of the trial. It explores all the angles and tricks both prosecutorial and defense sided take. It also presents a strong case for justice system reform, and what kind of legislation has been offered, in recent years, to do that.

Clearly a relevant view from a defense perspective... but their experiences seem to have biased them more than I would think educated people would fall for. This is not an objective review of the law, but none the less, a very interesting read and with the bias warning, I really do recommend it.

I found this book quite interesting with a number of pieces of very interesting insider-type information. My negative comment would be that both authors rail against the conservative media with a totally biased viewpoint that does not allow for anything akin to responsible reporting from the conservative segment. It was this attitude that prevented me from embracing this book in its entirety. It was an interesting exposé of what can and does go on in the courtroom but the two lawyers' political viewpoints were too evident. I guess I want my defense attorneys to be neutral in their politics and leave those conclusions at the door of the courtroom. In the end, I found this to be a little more soapbox than I had anticipated.

Chapter on cops Lying is alone worth the price. Cops should not even be allowed to testify if its not recorded or statement signed. Wonder why they hate polygraphs their more accurate than cops story. There is a error on why cops lie. He states they do it for the greater good. Only way go get the criminal. No they lie because they can and it helps with their performance eval. and future in the dept. Some crimes/arrest even when criminal is innocent and they know it but arrest him anyway guilty or not because the state and dept. gets federal monies for just the arrest alone. Cops do have ulterior motives just as with drugs being a gateway a little lie is gateway to bigger lies and abuse. Prosecutors have political agendas to lie. Both are protected from lawsuits due to lies. Look at all the innocent people in jail and death row. Polygraphs don't even think about it.

Without relying on sensationalism the authors take a close look at the changes in the criminal justice system over the last twenty years. Driven by the media, defense lawyers have had to make substantial changes in their strategies. Prosecutors have been able to shift from the traditional creation of reasonable doubt to a near-assumption that anyone who has been charged with a crime must have done something bad. The system is out of balance resulting in overcrowding in California jails and long sentences for those who might be rehabilitated to become useful citizens.

Read his book and got a good insight into the Judicial system from an insider, confirmed most of my suspicions about lawyers

A true account of how the real justice system works, and it is so far removed from anything you see on a screen. My brother was wrongfully convicted of a serious crime, and we put our trust in this system that ultimately is a corruption of all the virtues we imbue to it. Geragos and Harris give some great insight to cases the whole country has rode along with, as well as the forgotten victims of the US justice system that are high in number and still there. READ.

Really cool book. Super entertaining and an easy read. Nice snapshot into some of the biggest trials you've ever heard of.

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