Exposes the lack of truth in sentencing and reveals the large differences between the sentences pronounced by the judge and reported in the media, on the one hand, and the actual time criminals really serve in our jails and prisons.

Reveals how few crimes are ever solved by the police and prosecuted by the DA. In California, the chances of a serious crime leading to a prison sentence for the perpetrator are about 5%, similar to the national average.

Reveals many startling crime statistics unknown by much of the public.

Answers the question so often asked of criminal defense attorneys: “How can you defend a client charged with murder, rape or child molestation if you believe, or know, he is guilty?”

Reveals the true role of the criminal defense attorney, as contrasted with what the media tell us, and reveals what happened to a defense attorney who told a federal jury that he believed the prosecutor had proved his client was guilty of bank robbery beyond a reasonable doubt.

Commends women’s groups for demanding and achieving significant reforms in the 1970s and 1980s in the areas of sexual assault, child molestation, domestic violence and drunk driving.

Debunks the myth that violent and career criminals are mostly sick people suffering from low self-esteem—as we are often led to believe by the media.

Shows how California’s criminal justice system has undergone dramatic reform since 1978. Most of the credit goes to California’s initiative process, an exercise in direct democracy enabling the voters to pass laws when the legislature fails to respond to calls for reform.

Reveals the extent to which the Los Angeles Times has repeatedly misled the public when trying to persuade us to vote against ballot initiatives they oppose.

Discusses many of the author’s cases and courtroom experiences, some humorous, some gratifying, some heartbreaking, and some frustrating.

Reveals the true costs to the taxpayers when police departments, because of affirmative action quotas, hire people to become police officers who have been arrested many times for felony crimes.

Reveals that, from 1965 through 1978, the state of California paid its counties $4,000 for each convicted felon who was NOT sentenced to prison, thus avoiding, for many years, the necessity of having to spend hundreds of millions of dollars building new prisons. Under this plan, called “The Probation Subsidy Act,” many thousands of violent and career criminals were repeatedly released back to the streets after each felony conviction.

Most importantly, this book exposes and debunks many criminal justice myths and errors perpetuated by the media. Readers of this book, by learning how frequently the public is misinformed about criminal justice issues, will be better able to recognize when they are being misled by the media.