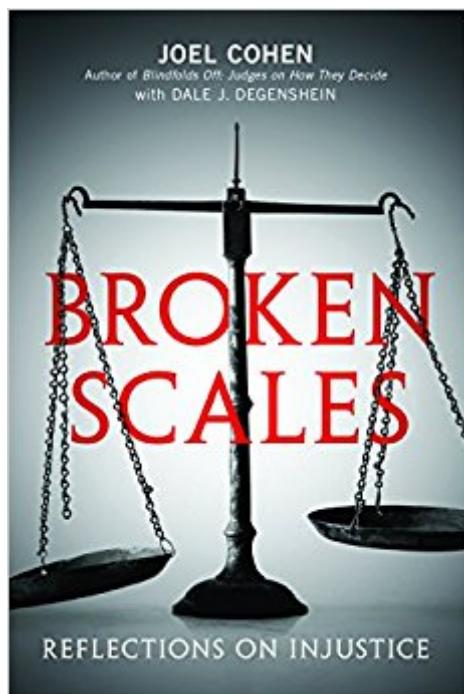


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# Broken Scales: Reflections On Injustice



## Synopsis

However rare, some injustices are “objectively” determined, often through DNA evidence, which allows us to squarely establish innocence despite a conviction. But the stories selected for this book represent a cross-section: some are such that (almost) every reader will see and acknowledge the wrong, and some interviews may leave the readers scratching his head, wondering “what was the author thinking?” By speaking with those impacted by injustices that occurred over the last 60 years—during the 1950s at the height of McCarthyism, the 1980s in Louisiana and New York when race played a large a role in how justice was dispensed and how the media portrayed the participants, the aftermath of 9/11 when many were prepared to believe the worst, and the time shortly before the Supreme Court decided that marriage could be granted to same-sex couples—this book requires readers to look at injustice in the context of our times. The stories told by the participants themselves give the reader insight into the challenges of dispensing, and even commenting on, justice. The author asks difficult questions: Is there an injustice when the game seems to have been played fairly, but the System still got it wrong? Is it an injustice when a jury, properly charged with the evidence fairly presented, convicts the wrong man? Or when people, so passionate in their own point of view, use over-the-top tactics to persuade others of their position? These interviews add to the important—and what must be ongoing—conversation about injustice in America

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Joel Cohen is a white collar criminal defense lawyer in New York. He has practiced in that field, as well as complex civil litigation, at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP for nearly 30 years, after having worked for ten years as a prosecutor with the New York State Special Prosecutor's Office and then with the U.S. Department of Justice's Organized Crime and Racketeering Section in the Eastern District of New York. Joel writes regularly for the New York Law Journal, The Hill, Huffington Post, law.com, and others on criminal law, legal ethics, and social policy. Dale J. Degenshein has practiced law since 1984, and has worked at Stroock since 2007. She frequently writes articles on the law and contributed to Cohen's book *Blindfolds Off* as well as Joel's periodic articles over the last four years.

Just finished reading this brilliant and provocative collection of interviews. The book allows the average person a glimpse into the injustices and failings of the American justice system. As a non-legal professional, I found this book extremely interesting and easy to understand given the interview format and cross-section of people interviewed. As prompted by the authors in the introduction, and in the words of the great MLK, I asked myself throughout whether, the arc of the moral universe bends towards justice?

This outstanding book brings to life the impact of injustice on the people who suffer the injustice by brilliantly using the interview format. It is one thing to know that there is injustice in our system, and quite another to feel the agony of people who are its victims. After reading the chapter on Stephen Pagones, no one will ever read a newspaper the same way again.

These interviews powerfully drive home the ways in which our well designed criminal justice system remains vulnerable to error or worse and the life-destroying consequences those errors produce. Thought provoking and very Impactful. Important reading Publicus

Broken Scales shines a light on ten miscarriages of justice in the American system over the course of the past 60 so years. Through thoughtful and poignant questioning, Joel Cohen elicits answers to some tough questions to people who have been hurt by the system we are taught protects us. This book is a disturbing, truthful compilation of interviews that is hard to put down and makes you question how comfortable you are in the current judicial climate. Highly recommend for anyone looking for a more nuanced perspective on the legal and justice system in America encapsulated in ten real life stories.

Broken Scales was recommended to accompany a course on justice at John Jay College. It's a great book! The format works particularly well. Each section highlights a different case and begins with a short, contextual section that orients the reader. This is followed by the transcript of an interview with a significant participant in the events. Reading the first hand accounts really brings the cases to life and gives the reader a sense of immediacy and impact well beyond that of a historical analysis. Highly recommended!

the author is a champion of righting injustice and his writing is a means to an end. his goal is to make the reader rethink their knee jerk reactions to what is and isn't justice or injustice and challenge your basic assumptions of each. A great and worthy read

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