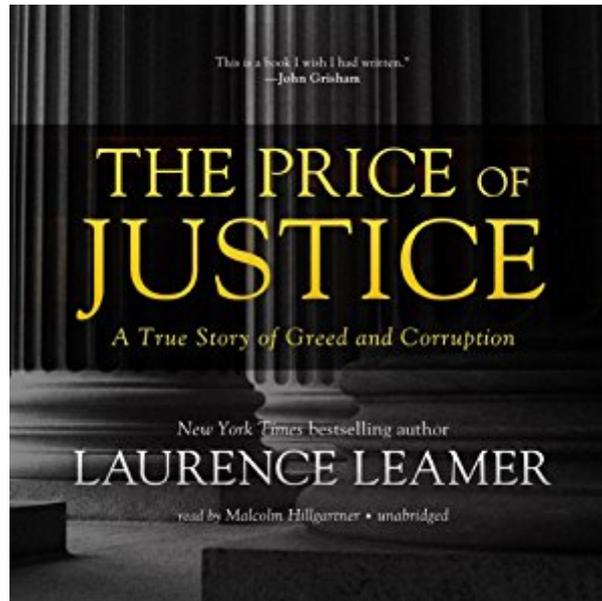


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# The Price Of Justice: A True Story Of Greed And Corruption



## Synopsis

This nonfiction legal thriller traces the 14-year struggle of two lawyers to bring the most powerful coal baron in American history to justice. Don Blankenship, head of Massey Energy since the early 1990s, ran an industry that provides nearly half of America's electric power. But wealth and influence weren't enough for Blankenship and his company, as they set about destroying corporate and personal rivals, challenging the Constitution, purchasing the West Virginia judiciary, and willfully disregarding safety standards in the company's mines - mines in which scores died unnecessarily. As Blankenship hobnobbed with a West Virginia Supreme Court justice in France, his company polluted the drinking water of hundreds of citizens; he himself fostered baroque vendettas against anyone who dared challenge his sovereignty over coal country. Just about the only thing that stood in the way of Blankenship's tyranny over a state and an industry was a pair of odd-couple attorneys, Dave Fawcett and Bruce Stanley, who undertook a legal quest to bring justice to this corner of America. From the backwoods courtrooms of West Virginia they pursued their case all the way to the US Supreme Court and to a dramatic decision declaring that the wealthy and powerful are not entitled to purchase their own brand of law. *The Price of Justice* is a story of corporate corruption so far-reaching and devastating it could have been written a hundred years ago by Ida Tarbell or Lincoln Steffens. And as Laurence Leamer demonstrates in this captivating tale, because it's true, it's scarier than fiction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Laurance Leamer's new book *The Price of Justice* is another perceptive exposé, shifting focus from the emotional malaise within the mansions of Palm Beach to the exploited and subjugated of the Appalachians. Leamer's exposure is more than a legal calling to account of the corrupt, oppressive mining mogul Blankenship. It is a bold and faithful penetration into a hermetically sealed industrial-judiciary network, a perforation that releases the stench of coal dust induced social decay and one of the most debased court systems in the nation. Leamer's focus is timely in light of the pronounced rise in campaign funding by special interest groups for state supreme court positions across the country. In a recent study published by the Brennan Center for Justice entitled *The New Politics of Judicial Elections, 2000-2009*, the authors point out that this insidious expenditure that threatens to re-configure and rig the judicial system in America, has more than doubled in the last decade. Most of these infusions issue from large corporations, industry groups, and law firms. It may be hoped that Leamer's book will inspire more such investigations, as has been suggested by the commentary of Sandra Day O'Connor on the monetary tilt of the scales on court decisions. In unison with Leamer she forewarns, "Left unaddressed, the perception that justice is for sale will undermine the rule of law that the courts are supposed to uphold." In *The Price of Justice* Leamer scorches the corrupt, unscrupulous lycanthropes of the Appalachians with an oxyacetylene torch. He executes this in such a way as to allow for a rebirth of the oppressed folk who lost so much. There are certain resilient species of tree, like the Sequoia or Douglas firs, that thrive well on scorched earth.

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