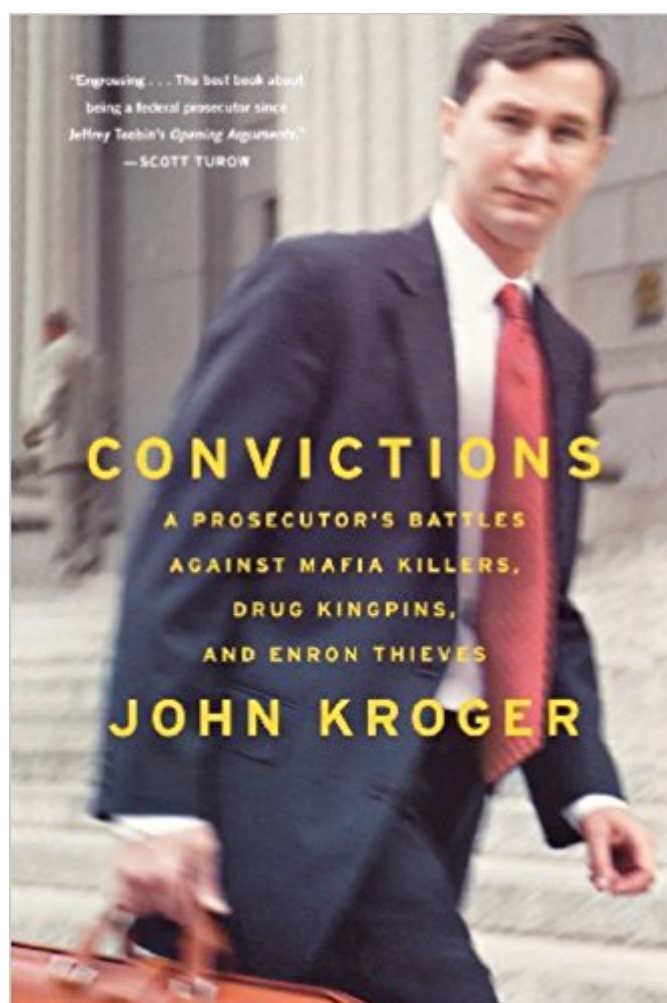


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# Convictions: A Prosecutor's Battles Against Mafia Killers, Drug Kingpins, And Enron Thieves



## Synopsis

As an Assistant United States Attorney, John Kroger pursued high-profile cases against mafia killers, drug kingpins, and Enron executives. In *Convictions*, Kroger reveals how to flip a perp, how to conduct a cross, how to work an informant, how to placate a hostile judge. Starting from his time as a green recruit and ending at the peak of his career, he steers us through the complexities and ethical dilemmas in the life of a prosecutor, where the battle in the courtroom is only the culmination of long and intricate investigative work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• [Engrossing . . . The best book about being a federal prosecutor since Jeffrey Toobin's Opening Arguments.](#) • [Scott Turow](#) • Exhaustive and fair-minded . . . Kroger's assessment of the federal prosecutor's problematic, overly powerful role in the legal system is well rendered and crisply delivered. • [Kirkus Reviews](#) • A thoughtful, compulsively readable assessment of the American justice system's struggles with the greatest social evils of our time . . . [Kroger] accomplishes more in a few hundred pages than many professional journalists and legal scholars achieve in a thousand. • [Matt Buckingham, Willamette Week](#) • I have read dozens of books by and about prosecutors. Kroger's is one of the best. • [Steve Weinberg, The Oregonian](#) • The extraordinarily intimate account of a prosecutor's coming-of-age . . . Essential reading. • [Terri Jentz, author of Strange Piece of Paradise](#) • Kroger wins here as he did in the courtroom--with simplicity and candor, passion and integrity, and a ferocious, persuasive intelligence. • [Susan Choi, author of American Woman](#)

John Kroger is the Attorney General of Oregon. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, he previously served as a United States Marine, federal prosecutor, and law professor.

Thoroughly enjoyable read! So interesting, it reads like a fiction thriller, but you actually learn a lot in the process. I am a patent lawyer who is interested learning more about the job of a prosecutor (who knows, maybe one day I'll switch). The book paints a realistic picture of what its like to be a federal prosecutor. Kroger himself had to get out of the job after suffering extreme burnout. I like how he describes the moral and philosophical contradictions that can arise from being a prosecutor; he has a philosophy background and goes deep into a couple of schools of thought. He also describes vividly how being a prosecutor can actually affect your character towards other human beings. All in all, a must read for those considering a prosecution career, and still an awesome read for everyone else.

Not surprisingly, books on the practice and theory of America's legal system frequently center on the nitty-gritty of what's expected from the practitioners of law and also on how those individuals perform or fail to perform their duties. *CONVICTIONS* pretty much adheres to that approach, with the author's own career in the law as a fascinating illustration of both those aspects. He does include an important and often neglected element, however, namely the philosophy of law. Kroger's own academic background in the field of philosophy spurred him on to question not only his devotion to the law but to his responsibility to the larger society in which that law exists. As a result, the problem of legal ethics plays a significant part in this carefully and amply documented analysis of his career as a federal prosecutor. If there is a flaw in this work, it's because Kroger tended to look at the cases he prosecuted chiefly from the viewpoint of what he expected to be the direct results of his efforts. To use one example, he considered his stint in the prosecution of drug cases to be productive; in that successful interdiction of drug trafficking would inevitably lead to higher drug prices on the street. That would then decrease illegal drug usage and its accompanying addiction. Leaving aside whether or not that is an accurate estimate of what does or could result, such a view ignores the indirect consequences of higher drug prices. Inevitably, the higher the price, the greater becomes the incentive for the drug user to find the money to pay for his addiction, one way or another, and all too frequently to the detriment of the larger society. The author's call for far more emphasis on treatment is commendable, but where such treatment fails, crime may be the only way addicts can continue to obtain the drug they crave. Lowering drug prices runs counter to the moral

principles espoused by much of our society, but that may be far more effective in reducing the deleterious impact of addiction on society than most other approaches to the drug problem. Even so, this is a book that I would highly recommend to anyone who embarks on the legal profession. And the quality of the writing, the intriguing nature of the cases the author prosecuted, and the thought that he has given to what he did as a prosecutor should be fascinating reading for anyone even remotely interested in how the American justice system works...or is supposed to work.

"CONVICTIONS: A Prosecutor's Battles Against Mafia Killers, Drug Kingpins, and Enron Thieves"... a long title, yet it doesn't begin to appropriately characterize this young man's many extraordinary achievements. After serving honorably in the United States Marines--and receiving degrees in philosophy at Yale, and a law degree with honors from Harvard--John Kroger went on to serve the public in a manner which is all too rare in today's hostile and self-serving political climate. Having the intelligence and somehow able to muster the courage to take on, and bring down, many of the Mafia families and drug kingpins, Mr. Kroger has, for the most part, unfortunately been ignored by today's media. In a relatively short time (albeit requiring unthinkable 80- to 90-hour work weeks for several years) this man and his never-ending efforts on behalf of the public, with little recognition, should become known and respected, far and wide, by so many of us who have--with good reason--become increasingly cynical about our public servants. This is an historical account of a unique individual, and I am privileged to recommend, without reservations, that "Convictions" be read by anyone who is eager to see a positive side to the work of those in public service. A TRULY GREAT BOOK... THANK YOU, MR. JOHN KROGER!--Ron Howe (aka Toby Martin II), Erskine, Minnesota.

Highly recommended. This book was detailed and informative, yet entertaining and engrossing. I lost some sleep because I stayed up late each night reading, but it was worth it. Many of the events written about take place in or around NYC, so as a New Yorker, I especially enjoyed learning about the DOJ work that happens in the local area. Kroger describes each major trial for long enough that you fully understand what's happening, but not with so much detail that you lose interest; he also explains legal concepts in simple, easy-to-understand terms. I felt Kroger presented his accomplishments and his struggles very honestly and humbly. He highlighted his significant wins but just as readily explained where he went wrong or made mistakes. I did not know anything about Kroger when I began this book, but I finished with high respect for and a very favorable opinion of him. Great read!

Interesting insight into a lawyers life and dedication. I recommend it to all those who have legally at heart, be they Kantian, Macchiavellian or utilitarians.

A very boring story of someone who think he is the best thing since slice bread. Reading the story gives you the idea that he did all the things he did while in reality, an sleuth of contributing actors were behind his successes.

interesting Well Written

Interesting story.

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