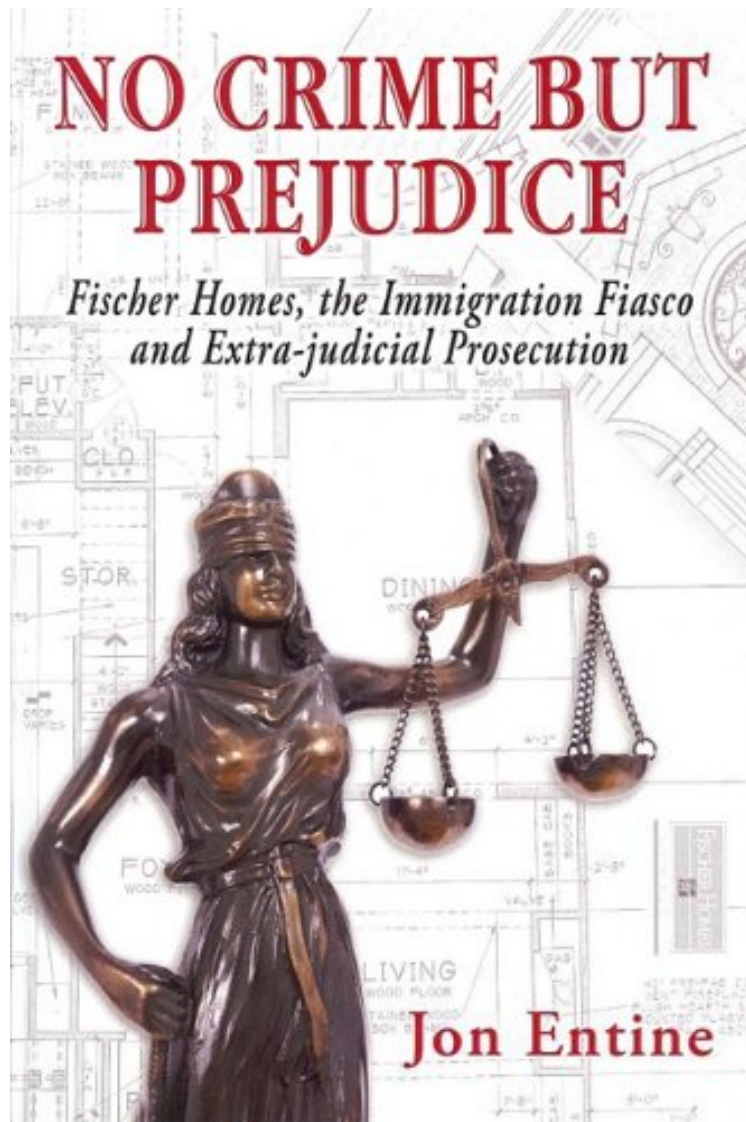


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No Crime But Prejudice (Fischer Homes, the Immigration Fiasco, and Extra-judicial Prosecution)

Jon Entine

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Jon Entine : No Crime But Prejudice (Fischer Homes, the Immigration Fiasco, and Extra-judicial Prosecution)
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Crime But
Prejudice (Fischer Homes, the Immigration Fiasco, and Extra-judicial Prosecution):

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Words of wisdom throughout this wonderful bookBy citizen fact

checkerThe review by Judith E. Glaser pretty much says it all and says it well. In my opinion this book should be read as a warning to all honest, honorable business owners and their honest and honorable employees: Be wary of what you say around prosecutors and their minions because even before a case gets to court they could twist your innocent phrases into connotations that suit their purpose and that damn you forever. In fact, lawyer friends of my family, when I was growing up, have said to just remain silent around authorities until and unless you have an attorney as a witness with you. Even then you should remain silent and let the attorney do the talking. When you read this book you will learn more about how your words can be twisted. You will also learn that what we were told about publicity when we were children in middle school is exemplified in this book: That is, that you should not believe everything you read in the newspaper and very little of what you might see in news photographs. Headlines can often be deceiving especially when their singular purpose is to sell newspapers, and even pre-digital photographs can easily be manipulated to deceive the eye. Fortunately for the Fischer family and their employees they won the hard-earned fight against the tactics employed against them. This excellent book is well worth reading and is one from which we can learn much about the justice system. The author, Jon Entine, according to the back cover at the time this book was published was and perhaps still is "a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and an international consultant on corporate responsibility and civic leadership." I strongly recommend this book: It is much more than a teaching moment. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Best Back Room Drama I've Ever Read! By Judith E. Glaser Rarely does a book come along that has the ability to take us deep inside the personal and professional 'movie' of a businessman's worst nightmare. Jon Entine's *No Crime But Prejudice* gives readers a scene by scene playback of the business tragedy, and emotional pressures of a man unjustly accused of harboring illegal aliens. *No Crime But Prejudice* is the best view of the backroom drama I've ever read. Entine's ability to take the reader into the skin of the accused, triggers every empathetic response a reader can muster. Entine brings us into the sweat of the moment with swirling police helicopter sounds hanging in the early morning sky as the targeted Fischer Homes employees are being handcuffed and taken away to jail like hardened criminals in front of friends and family. He equally well takes the reader into the larger story of power that drives the justice system, where prosecutors viciously pound their unfounded facts on the table to literally destroy a person's life, business and future over night. Henry Fischer and his company are just some of many victims of over zealous prosecutors and ambitious government agencies. They are examples of the unnecessary hazards of a power system intent on finding fault before finding truth. These victims are often workers and their families, including many small and medium sized business owners who have played by the rules and yet now find themselves targets of an unfair and unfriendly prosecution system. This book is a must read for anyone who wants to learn about the truth and law. 4 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Innocent? Not exactly. By Peter Schaeffer The Fischer Homes raid resulted in the arrest of 76 illegal aliens. 8 subcontractors were convicted in this case. Fischer Homes got off because the firm was shrewd enough to "launder" its illegal alien workers through subcontractors and because a key prosecution witness fled the country. Innocent? Not exactly.

What happens to the lives of the innocent when prosecutors abuse their power to further their careers or cater to political expediency? Think of the Duke lacrosse fiasco, the corruption case against former Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, or the prosecution of the former Arthur Andersen. Henry Fischer, founder and president of the largest independent homebuilding company in the Cincinnati region and one of the 100 largest in the country, knows first hand. In May 2006, with TV crews taping every twist and turn in the case, police helicopters swooped down from the early morning sky, buzzing construction sites in Northern Kentucky overseen by Fischer Homes. Swat teams arrested Hispanic-looking workers. Armed agents targeted Fischer superintendents, handcuffing them at dawn in front of friends and family and dragging them off to jail, accused of harboring illegal aliens. Each faced as much as a \$250,000 fine and 10 years in jail. The company was threatened with a felony indictment and charges under RICO, the racketeering laws designed to go after organized criminals, that would have ruined Fischer Homes and cost the jobs of 500 associates and thousands more subcontracted workers. Thus began a three-year nightmare for Mr. Fischer and hundreds and workers, friends, and business associates of Fischer Homes. With a gun at his head, founder, Henry Fischer was offered a deal: plead guilty, pay \$1 million fine and admit to a felony and your associates would be off the hook. At the same time, prosecutors were pressuring the accused workers to turn against the company in effect to perjure themselves--to avoid the huge fine and likely jail time. The prosecutor's facts were wrong, but that was small solace when facing the enormous power of the justice system, which often depends on extracting plea deals, sometimes even from the innocent and often from supposedly deep-pocketed businesses. Remarkably, both the workers and Mr. Fischer refused to capitulate. Despite facing public humiliation and possible financial ruin, Mr. Fischer gambled his entire company, spending millions of dollars--far more than the \$1 million fine and guilty plea the government demanded--to fight the strong-arm tactics of politically driven prosecutorial antagonists. And he prevailed, as the charges against his workers were eventually dismissed. The Fischer Homes case is a striking example of the politics of prosecution how and why the government targets individuals and corporations, sometimes recklessly, taking an enormous human toll in the process. Often, there is not even an intention by the government of going to trial. Instead, prosecutors have perfected more powerful tactics: exploiting the threat of business losses and manipulating

the media to force capitulation. At what point does the potential public benefits of vigorous prosecution outweigh the actual harm when fundamental legal protections are compromised? Most people find it difficult to hold much sympathy for corporations, often forgetting that we depend on a dynamic, competitive economy for its welfare. The victims of over zealous prosecutors and ambitious government agencies are often workers and their families, including many small and medium sized business owners who have played by the rules and yet now find themselves targets businessmen like Henry Fischer. As Mr. Fischer writes, I hope nothing like this happens to you.

About the AuthorJon Entine, a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a columnist for the British-based international magazine Ethical Corporation, has written and edited five books on corporate responsibility, science, and society and is a consultant on sustainability. A former producer at ABC News and NBC News, he has won more than twenty journalism honors including two Emmys and a National Press Club award. Entine has served as a lecturer at various universities, including Columbia, Michigan, Arizona State, NYU, and most recently Miami (OH), where he was scholar-in-residence.