

Wendy J. Murphy

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Sexual Violence (Perspectives in Law)

Wendy Murphy is an ex-prosecutor who specialized in child abuse and sex crimes cases. The first lawyer in the country to run a program to provide free legal services to crime victims, Wendy has been fighting for victims' rights for twenty years. Having served as a Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School, Wendy now represents crime victims in civil and criminal cases and teaches an advanced seminar on sexual violence at the New England School of Law in Boston. As an adjunct professor, she also manages the Sexual Violence Legal News and Judicial Language projects at her law school and consults with crime victims across the country to help them achieve justice. Wendy writes scholarly and pop culture articles, and lectures widely on victims' rights, sex crimes, violence against women and children, media coverage of crime and the criminal justice system. Wendy has worked as a legal analyst for CBS News, CNN, Fox News and MSNBC. A former NFL cheerleader, Wendy has also written three children's' books. She lives outside Boston with her husband and children.

AND JUSTICE FOR SOME

An Exposé
of the Lawyers
and Judges
Who Let
Dangerous
Criminals
Go Free



Save the Date:

Coming to
K-State

Tuesday,
March 25,
2008

10 am: Forum
Hall: "And
Justice for
Some"

11:15-12:00: Reception

4 pm: Forum
Hall: "Rape And
the Failure of
Law Reform:
What's Wrong
and What You
Can Do"

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WILDCATS AGAINST RAPE



A True Horror Story.

A man in Vermont named Mark Hulett raped a little girl countless times over a four-year period, beginning when she was seven years old. In 2005, he was caught, tried, and convicted of the hideous crimes, to which he ultimately confessed. The prosecutor sought a sentence of eight to ten years.

The judge in the case, Edward Cashman, sentenced the rapist to just sixty days in prison. Explaining his decision to the astonished courtroom, Judge Cashman said that when he first was elevated to the bench a quarter century earlier, he believed in tough sentencing. More recently, though, he had concluded that being hard-nosed with bad guys didn't serve any useful purpose. "It doesn't make anything better," he said. "It costs us a lot of money, we create a lot of expectation, and we feed on anger."

Let's stop right there, for a minute. How do you feel about that? Sixty days for inflicting four years of appalling, relentless rape and sexual abuse on a helpless child because being hard-nosed doesn't serve any useful purpose.

There's a big difference between being hard-nosed toward a criminal and coddling him like a child who's stolen a pack of gum. What's the obvious message to all the child molesters lurking out there? How about the monster who lives in your neighborhood? Do I sound angry? I am. And I want you to get angry, too...

...This insanity is going on every day all across this country, and nobody is doing anything about it. In fact, to the contrary, victims are being told that the system is tough, and the trial will be brutal. In the face of all this, how can we possibly expect people to report crimes and testify in criminal cases? If crimes aren't reported and citizens don't testify, how can the government ensure the public's safety?

It's a truly unbelievable situation. Victims and witnesses to crime who cooperate with the justice system deserve good-citizenship awards. Instead, they get a kick in the head, and we tell them tough luck, in so many words.

Wasn't our pledge to one another a promise of justice for all? Isn't justice supposed to be about truth and fairness? So how is it that time and time again we see nothing but lies and trickery? Justice for some? Maybe. Justice for all? Not a chance...

After twenty years in this system, I can tell you that things have grown increasingly out of control. I see judges who give childsex offenders probation. I see defense attorneys who lie through their teeth, and victims and witnesses who succumb to outright corruption...

Men and women should be working together in the fight against violence against women. But to win the fight, they need to transcend the stranglehold of partisan obedience.

People tell me I sound "fascist," "conservative," "liberal," "radical," and even "communist." The only thing nobody calls me is a capitalist and the funny thing is that I like capitalism but it has no place in the criminal justice system. Justice should always be better than capitalism. But the bottom line is, all these isms are meaningless to me. I'm in nobody's club and this is important because no leader of a certain ilk can call me and say, "Wendy, you need to start saying X," or "You need to stop saying Y." When it comes to antiviolence work, partisan ideologies are destructive forces that sometimes command obedience to dumb ideas.

This book will give you insight into why terrible things happen to innocent people all the time. And it will help you fight back by letting you in on some of the dirty tricks and evil tactics that undermine the integrity of our justice system.

Read it and weep, but don't stop there.

.....From the Introduction of **And Justice for Some**