



Plagiarism allegation against Kamala Harris

- Harris copy-pasted a *Wikipedia* article into her book “*Smart on Crime*” (2009). In total this documentation highlights **27 fragments of plagiarism** in her book. Plagiarism fragments can be proven from p. 10 to p. 185.
- In “live” interviews, Harris did not speak freely, but repeated the content of her book verbatim.



Please note: The left column shows plagiarism by Harris, while the right column displays the uncited original text.

marches taking place in my hometown. As for me, I had a stroller's eye view of a watershed moment in our country's struggle for social justice, the civil rights movement that unfolded in Berkeley and Oakland. My early memories are of a sea of legs marching around the streets and the sounds of shouting. The conversations in our apartment in the Berkeley flatlands area on Bancroft Avenue would go late into the night, and, of course, we picked up the language of the movement. My **mother** used to laugh when she told the story about a time I was fussing as a toddler: She leaned down to ask me, "Kamala, what's wrong? **What do you want?**" and I wailed back, "**Fweedom.**"

Page 10, Preface. **Harris appropriated an anecdote told by Martin Luther King and told it as her own memory as a child, misspelling included.**

This incident has been previously documented here:

<https://nypost.com/2021/01/05/kamala-harris-appears-to-repeatedly-plagiarize-mlk-anecdote>

There may be further instances of appropriating historic quotes (though the following was not in her book). Harris attributed two similar quotes to her mother, but they closely match lines from the nomination speech of the first

I never will forget a moment in Birmingham when a white policeman accosted a little Negro girl, seven or eight years old, who was walking in a demonstration with her **mother**. "**What do you want?**" the policeman asked her gruffly, and the little girl looked him straight in the eye and answered, "**Fee-dom.**" She couldn't even pronounce it, but she knew. It

Martin Luther King, Jr. In: "The Playboy Interview" (1981). Page 134



woman to serve as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Kamala:

*“My mother always told me that you may be the first to achieve something,
but make sure you're not the last.”*

<https://theievoice.com/black-women-at-the-polls-and-in-the-halls-of-power/>

Kamala:

*My mother said to me often, “Kamala, you may be the first to do many
things, but make sure you're not the last.”*

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/27/remarks-by-vice-president-harris-at-the-40th-annual-black-history-month-virtual-celebration/>

First Supreme Court woman:

*On Alito's nomination, O'Connor said, "I've often said, it's wonderful to be
the first to do something but I didn't want to be the last.*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandra_Day_O%27Connor



spree captivated the public. Richard Nixon's 1968 campaign for president is generally credited with making crime a partisan issue.

Then, in 1974, a prominent criminologist named Robert Martinson published a paper suggesting that rehabilitating criminals did not work. "While some treatment programs have had modest successes, it still must be concluded that the field of corrections has not as yet found satisfactory ways to reduce recidivism by significant amounts," he wrote.⁷ Political voices argued that we should eliminate educational and rehabilitation programs. To believe otherwise came to be viewed as "soft" and unrealistic. Martinson later retracted that conclusion and said that he had, in fact, found a number of prisoner rehabilitation programs that had effectively reduced recidivism. But the damage had already been done.

7. Martinson, Robert, "What Works? Questions and Answers about Prison Reforms" *The Public Interest* 35, p. 200, 1974. See also Martinson, R., "New Findings, New Views: A note of caution regarding sentencing reform," *Hofstra Law Review*, 7, 243–258, 1979.

Page 30, chapter 1.

Kamala learned about Martinson from a New York Times article, which she cited in Chapter 8 but not here, making this instance an act of plagiarism:

34. Suellentrop, Chris, "The Right Has a Jailhouse Conversion," the *New York Times Magazine*, December 24, 2006.

But she did not mention the NYT article here. While the plagiarism is not so obvious here, what is much worse is that she copied the name of the

odd and surprising change in the politics of crime. The G.O.P., the party of Richard Nixon's 1968 law-and-order campaign and the Willie Horton commercial, is beginning to embrace the idea that prisoners have not only souls that need saving but also flesh that needs caring for in this world. [...]

But in 1974, a sociologist named Robert Martinson published an article called "What Works?" in the neoconservative journal *The Public Interest*. John DiIulio, President Bush's first director of faith-based initiatives, once called Martinson's essay "arguably the single most influential article ever published in that influential journal." Martinson answered the question he posed by concluding that "with few and isolated exceptions," there was no evidence that any rehabilitation programs successfully reduced recidivism. His article and the subsequent media attention it received — along with the high crime rates of the 1970s — are credited with shifting the emphasis in crime policy from rehabilitation to punishment and "just desserts." Martinson later retracted his argument: in a 1979 article in *The Hofstra Law Review*, he acknowledged that some rehabilitation programs had "an appreciable effect," while emphasizing that other programs were actually harmful. But the political environment was not as receptive to a more nuanced approach.



primary source ("What Works?") mentioned in the NYT magazine and fabricated the page number. Unfortunately for her, the page 200 does not exist in Martinson's "What Works?"

(<http://ereserve.library.utah.edu/Annual/SOC/3564/Bench/what.pdf>). And this cannot be a mistake with numbers, because the quotation simply does not exist on any page of that work.

The quotation she provided actually came from a rare 1975 book by Martinson and Wilks ("The effectiveness of correctional treatment: a survey of treatment evaluation studies"), but even there it was on page 627, **so the reference was fabricated, guessing the page number as "p. 200"**.

It's likely she copied the quoted text from another article by Wilks (<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Revisiting+Martinson--+has+corrections+made+progress+in+the+past+30...-a0123670321>)

Suellentrop, Chris (2006): "The Right Has a Jailhouse Conversion," New York Times Magazine.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/24/magazine/24GOP.t.html>



2007, we successfully prosecuted a defendant named Gary Johnson, who later was sentenced to fifty years to life in state prison for robbing elderly women after using a ruse to get into their homes and threatening them with sexual assault. Johnson would pretend to be a writer for an architectural publication, a landscaper, or a utility employee when he saw the utility company doing work on a victim's street. Once inside, the defendant forcibly pulled, pushed, and dragged these elderly women through their homes, tied them up, and demanded money and valuables. Thanks to an intense investigation by the San Francisco Police Department, we caught Johnson. In addition to the crimes he committed in San Francisco, he was tried and convicted in Los Angeles for twenty-two felony counts against elderly women there. These included multiple counts of forcible oral copulation, sexual assault, elder abuse, and first degree burglary. Callous, cowardly

Page 48, chapter 2. The book reproduces content from a press release issued by her District Attorney's office, likely written by an assistant. Beyond the issue of copying, it contains misleading embellishments. The book claims that San Francisco authorities ("we") "caught" the defendant, whereas in the press release he was caught and sentenced in Los Angeles for crimes committed there. Only after his Los Angeles conviction did a partial fingerprint help the SFPD match him, leading to his extradition to SF.

By stating, "we caught Johnson. In addition to the crimes he committed in San Francisco, he was tried and convicted in Los Angeles," the book wrongly implies an initial arrest in San Francisco followed by a transfer to LA. It also only mentions the investigation by the SFPD but not of the LAPD.

SAN FRANCISCO, District Attorney Kamala D. Harris announced that Gary Johnson, aka, Tommy John, age 47, was sentenced to 50 years to life in state prison for robbing elderly women after using a ruse to get into their homes and threatening them with sexual assault.

After deliberating for approximately one day, a jury convicted the defendant in April 2007 of two counts of P.C. 368(f), or false imprisonment of an elder by violence, menace fraud or deceit. The jury acquitted the defendant of one count of false imprisonment of an elder. The guilty verdicts followed a month long jury trial before Superior Court Judge Mary Morgan in Dept. 13. Judge Morgan also found Defendant Johnson's prior convictions for first-degree burglary to be true. On Friday, May 4, Judge Morgan sentenced the defendant to 50 years to life in state prison.

According to the charges, in May and August 2000, and February 2002, the defendant used a ruse to enter the homes of three different elderly women (ages 74, 78 and 86) during daylight hours. The incidents occurred on Van Ness, 20th Ave and Pacific Ave. Defendant Johnson pretended either to be a writer for an architectural publication, a landscaper or a PG&E

employee as PG&E was doing work on one victim's street. Once inside, the defendant forcibly pulled, pushed and dragged his victims through their homes, tied them up, and demanded money and valuables. The defendant robbed two victims of a total of more than \$500 in money and jewelry.

In 2000, San Francisco Police Inspectors Ronan Shouldice and Bob Totah recovered a partial fingerprint in the home of one San Francisco victim but were unable to identify the print. In 2002, SFPD matched the print to the defendant, who had been arrested in Los Angeles for crimes against elderly women. The defendant was subsequently convicted in Los Angeles of 22 felony counts, including multiple counts of forcible oral copulation, sexual assault, elder abuse, and first-degree burglary.

The defendant, formerly of Los Angeles and Philadelphia, was arrested and brought to San Francisco in July 2005.

The conviction is the result of a lengthy investigation by SFPD Insp. Bob Totah and the Los Angeles Police Department. Sean Do is the District Attorney's victim services advocate in the case. Cheryl Matthews is the Assistant District Attorney who prosecuted the case.

San Francisco Police Officers Association (SFPOA). (2007). POA Journal, Vol. 39, No. 6, June 2007.

https://sfpoa.org/journal_archives/Vol_39_No_6_June_2007.pdf



Despite providing many details about the case, the book avoids to mention the actual prosecutor, Cheryl Matthews, which gives the impression that Harris herself prosecuted the case.

STEP 1: Define the Problem. The first step in preventing crime is to understand it. [...]

STEP 2: Identify Risk and Protective Factors. It is not enough to know the magnitude of a public health problem. It is important to understand what factors protect people or put them at risk for experiencing or perpetrating crime. [...]

STEP 3: Develop and Test Prevention Strategies. [...] The Centers for Disease Control, for example, has a program called Choose Respect, an initiative to help adolescents form healthy relationships in order to prevent dating abuse. [...]

STEP 4: Assure Widespread Adoption. Once prevention programs have been proven effective, we have to get the word out.

Page 60-61, chapter 3. Although the source was vaguely mentioned earlier, it is necessary—and a matter of basic integrity—to use quotation marks when copying several sentences word-for-word. The copied content is also so general and trivial that it's puzzling why it was used at all, especially when it could have easily been paraphrased. It seems the intent might have been to appear scholarly, but true scholarship involves building on existing

Step 1: Define the Problem

The first step in preventing violence is to understand it. [...]

Step 2: Identify Risk and Protective Factors

It is not enough to know the magnitude of a public health problem. It is important to understand what factors protect people or put them at risk for experiencing or perpetrating violence. [...]

Step 3: Develop and Test Prevention Strategies [...] Case study: CDC has developed and is testing a communication initiative for 6th- to 8th-grade students. Choose Respect is an initiative to help adolescents form healthy relationships to prevent dating abuse before it starts.

Step 4: Assure Widespread Adoption

Once prevention programs have been proven effective, they must be implemented and adopted more broadly. [...]



criminological research, not presenting the information as if it were an entirely new field with no prior studies.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20090228185835/http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/overview/publichealthapproach.html>

to. Although it is a statewide, indeed a national problem, recently, chronic school absence had reached a crisis point in San Francisco. In fact, our city had one of the highest truancy rates in the state—higher than the average rates of California's other major urban areas. For a city its size, San Francisco happens to have a fairly small population of public-school students (about 30 percent of our students are in private schools), yet shortly after I became District Attorney, I learned that 5,500 students were habitually truant. We are not talking about playing hooky with friends at the beach on a rare, hot day. What we are talking about is chronic and habitual school absenteeism—students who have fifteen, twenty, even eighty unexcused absences in a 180-day school year.

Over the last few years, 44 percent of San Francisco's truant children were elementary school students. At one elementary school, 55 percent of the students were chronically or habitually absent last year. When my staff looked into it, we found that one third grader had more than sixty unexcused absences in one school year. One ninth grader missed 104 days of school. Other students had literally dropped off the charts, having been absent from school for a year or more.

We all know, and research proves, that the future will be bleak for habitually absent children like that third grader, who will fall increasingly behind in middle and high school. Bleak is actually an understatement. Not only will these children fail to get the most basic foundation in math and reading, they will edge ever further away from the social skills and discipline, planning, and responsibility that lay the groundwork for a productive life. It gets worse: Many criminal law experts call chronic school absence the most powerful predictor of juvenile crime, too often the start of a lifetime of crime.

We are not talking about playing hooky with friends on a hot day at Ocean Beach. What we are talking about is chronic and habitual school absenteeism – students who have 15, 20, even 80 unexcused absences in one school year.

Although it is a statewide problem, chronic school absence has reached a crisis point in San Francisco. In fact, the city has one of the highest rates in the state – higher than the average rates of California's other major urban areas, including Alameda, Los Angeles and Contra Costa counties.

Last year, nearly 5,500 San Francisco Unified School District students were habitually absent from school. Forty-four percent were elementary school students. At one San Francisco elementary school, 55 percent of the students were chronically or habitually absent last year. One San Francisco third-grader had more than 60 unexcused absences in one school year. One ninth-grader missed 104 days of school last year, out of 180 days. Some students have literally dropped off the charts, having been absent from school for a year or more.

We all know, and research proves, that the future will be bleak for habitually absent children like that third-grader, who will increasingly fall behind in middle and high schools. Criminal law experts call chronic school absence the most powerful predictor of juvenile crime, which often leads to adult crime.

Kamala Harris and Carlos Garcia: "Absent minded: Consequences of truancy hurt entire community". 6 October 2007.



Page 64, chapter 4. Most of the article was copied into the book, even though it was only co-authored by Kamala Harris (this also continued on pages 66-67 and 131-134). The source was not mentioned at all in the book.

<https://www.sfgate.com/education/article/Absent-minded-Consequences-of-truancy-hurt-2536447.php>

around 30 percent—and much higher in some urban areas. Consider these grim facts: A 2008 report by America's Promise Alliance, which is chaired by Alma Powell, the wife of former Secretary of State Colin Powell, showed that 17 percent of the nation's fifty largest cities had high school graduation rates lower than 50 percent. In Detroit's public schools, only 25 percent of the students who enrolled in grade nine graduated from high school, while 30.5 percent graduated in Indianapolis public schools and 34 percent received diplomas in the Cleveland Municipal City School District.

Overall, about 70 percent of U.S. students graduate from public and private schools on time with a regular diploma, and about 1.2 million students drop out annually. Only about half of the students served by public school systems in the nation's largest cities receive diplomas. As Secretary Powell put it: "When more than 1 million

Page 65-66, chapter 4. She copied from an Associated Press article without citing it. The article itself was an interpretation of a report by America's Promise Alliance

(https://web.archive.org/web/20080513015216/http://www.americaspromise.org/uploadedFiles/AmericasPromiseAlliance/Dropout_Crisis/SWANSONCitesInCrisis040108.pdf). However, the report does not contain the sentences

April 1, 2008, 1:40 PM GMT+2 / Source: The Associated Press

Seventeen of the nation's 50 largest cities had high school graduation rates lower than 50 percent, with the lowest graduation rates reported in Detroit, Indianapolis and Cleveland, according to a report released Tuesday.

The report, issued by America's Promise Alliance, found that about half of the students served by public school systems in the nation's largest cities receive diplomas. Students in suburban and rural public high schools were more likely to graduate than their counterparts in urban public high schools, the researchers said.

Nationally, about 70 percent of U.S. students graduate on time with a regular diploma and about 1.2 million students drop out annually.

"When more than 1 million students a year drop out of high school, it's more than a problem, it's a catastrophe," said former Secretary of State Colin Powell, founding chair of the alliance.

His wife, Alma Powell, the chair of the alliance, said students need to graduate with skills that will help them in higher education and beyond. [...]

Troubling data

The report found troubling data on the prospects of urban public high school students getting to college. In Detroit's public schools, 24.9 percent of the students graduated from high school, while 30.5 percent graduated in Indianapolis Public Schools and 34.1 percent received diplomas in the Cleveland Municipal City School District.

NBC News/Associated Press: "Study: Low graduation rates in city schools", 1st of April 2008, <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna23897401>



quoted; they were written by the journalists, who interpreted the data tables. This suggests that Harris did not read or fully understand the report and instead relied on the news article, while attempting to convey an impression of scholarly knowledge.

When copying so much text verbatim, academic integrity requires the use of quotation marks. Additionally, Harris wrote "17 percent of the nation's fifty largest cities," while the original text stated "seventeen of the nation's 50 largest cities," which are twice as many cities.

profiles from 2004 to 2008. It turned out that 94 percent of San Francisco's homicide victims under the age of twenty-five were high school dropouts. The demographics of the murderers are the same.

[...]

Now, here's the good news: Research has proven that, in any given community, an increase in graduation rates results in a decrease in murder rates. In Part II, I will tell you about how we can act on the

Page 66-67, chapter 4. Most of the article was copied into the book, even though it was only co-authored by Kamala Harris (see also page 131-134). The source was not mentioned at all in the book.

-- Over the last four years, 94 percent of San Francisco's homicide victims under the age of 25 were high school dropouts. Research has proved that in any given community, an increase in graduation rates results in a decrease in murder rates.

Kamala Harris and Carlos Garcia: "Absent minded: Consequences of truancy hurt entire community". 6 October 2007.

<https://www.sfgate.com/education/article/Absent-minded-Consequences-of-truancy-hurt-2536447.php>



Experts debate the degree to which the CSI effect has an impact on actual verdicts. However, prosecutors in my office and elsewhere believe it does influence trials. Andrew P. Thomas is the chief prosecutor for Maricopa County, Arizona, which includes the city of Phoenix. His office prosecutes about 40,000 felonies each year. As he wrote in the *Yale Law Journal* in 2006, when he surveyed 102 attorneys in his office, 38 percent said they have had at least one trial that resulted in either an acquittal or hung jury because forensic evidence was not available—even though prosecutors believed the existing testimony was sufficient by itself to sustain a conviction. “In about 40% of these prosecutors’ cases, jurors have asked questions about evidence like ‘mitochondrial DNA,’ ‘latent prints,’ ‘trace evidence,’ or ‘ballistics’—even when these terms were not used at trial,” he wrote.²⁶ His prosecutors believed that the jurors learned the terms from television.

26. <http://yalelawjournal.org/2006/02/thomas.html>

Page 70, chapter 5. The source was cited, but it is just cheap copy & paste from the beginning of an article. The reader would reasonably expect that only the portion in quotation marks was taken verbatim and the rest would be her own words.

The CSI Effect: Fact or Fiction

01 SEP 2006

Andrew P. Thomas

As chief prosecutor for Maricopa County, which includes the city of Phoenix, my office prosecutes about 40,000 felonies each year and includes a staff of 300 prosecutors. In June 2005, we surveyed 102 of those attorneys, all of whom had trial experience, and they reported that the CSI effect is no myth: Of the prosecutors we surveyed, 38% believed they had at least one trial that resulted in either an acquittal or hung jury because forensic evidence was not available, even though prosecutors believed the existing testimony was sufficient by itself to sustain a conviction. In about 40% of these prosecutors’ cases, jurors have asked questions about evidence like “mitochondrial DNA,” “latent prints,” “trace evidence,” or “ballistics”—even when these terms were not used at trial.

On television, if the CSI people do their job right, the jurors will have little choice but to convict. In real life, the false expectation of plentiful scientific evidence can create a

Andrew P. Thomas: “The CSI Effect: Fact or Fiction”. 1 September 2006.

<https://www.yalelawjournal.org/forum/the-csi-effect-fact-or-fiction>



communities and at the national level. In February of 2009, for example, U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and U.S. Senator Arlen Specter (D-PA), then the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, introduced the Justice Integrity Act of 2009, which addresses disparities in how African Americans and Hispanics are stopped, searched, and arrested.

“We are at a crossroads today where we can either attack injustice or continue to turn our heads away from the problems that have infected our system,” said Senator Cardin in a statement when the legislation was introduced. “This bill will not only help restore the public’s trust in our justice system but also restore integrity in our justice system. Any form of bias in our criminal justice system erodes the core principles in our Constitution specifically that ‘all men are created equal’ under the law and that our justice system is not only fair but just.”²⁹ The Justice Integrity Act will create ten pilot programs across the country that will help develop a working plan to ensure that law enforcement priorities and initiatives—including charging, plea decisions, and sentencing recommendations—are not influenced by racial or ethnic bias, and that instead the law will be applied to all individuals in a just and fair manner.

Page 83-84, chapter 6. Only the parts in green were properly cited, while the rest was copied verbatim without proper attribution. Additionally, the senator was referred to as “D-PA,” even though he introduced the bill while he was still a Republican.

U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and U.S. Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, today introduced the Justice Integrity Act of 2009, which is designed to help restore public confidence and eliminate any bias in our criminal justice system. In introducing the bill, Senator Cardin thanked Vice President Joe Biden, a former member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who had introduced a similar measure in the last Congress.

“We are at a crossroads today where we can either attack injustice or continue to turn our heads away from the problems that have infected our system,” said Senator Cardin.

“This bill will not only help restore the public’s trust in our justice system but also restore integrity in our justice system. Any form of bias in our criminal justice system erodes the core principles in our Constitution specifically that “all men are created equal” under the law and that our justice system is not only fair but just.”

“This legislation will provide us with necessary data that will help us as we try to address racial disparities and eliminate any bias in law enforcement and our justice system,”

Senator Specter said. “I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate on this important legislation.”

A 2007 study released by the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics revealed that while Black, Hispanic and White drivers are equally likely to be pulled over by police, blacks and Hispanics are much more likely to be searched and arrested. In addition, African Americans are three times more likely to be arrested for a drug offense than white Americans and are nearly ten times as likely to enter prison for drug offenses. “These types of disparities and the perception of bias are unacceptable and we should take bold steps to correct these injustices,” said Senator Cardin. “We must follow President Obama’s call to “insist on a full measure of justice in every aspect of American life.”

The Justice Integrity Act will create 10 pilot programs across the country that will help develop a working plan to ensure that law enforcement priorities and initiatives – including charging and plea decisions, as well as sentencing recommendations – are not influenced by racial or ethnic bias but instead apply the law in a just and fair manner to all individuals.

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/press-releases/cardin-specter-introduce-bill-to-return-equal-protection-under-the-law-to-us-justice-system>



entrap a vulnerable stranger. The public, she notes in *Deadly Consequences*, tends to “presume ‘victim’ and ‘assailant’ are strangers, separated by the vast chasm that separates good from evil.”³⁰ In fact, however, at least half the time, people kill people that they know, either family members or friends or acquaintances. The cases in our courtrooms day after day demonstrate this. People

30. See Prothrow–Stith, above, p. 21.

Page 86, chapter 7. The direct quotation was properly attributed, but the subsequent section was copied without quotation marks or any source attribution. There appears to be a pattern of citing only direct quotations, while omitting attribution for the preceding and following sentences.

commission of a crime—a robbery, a rape, a drug deal. They presume “victim” and “assailant” are strangers, separated by the vast chasm that separates good from evil. And they presume that the slain and the slayer often come from different races.

All of these presumptions are incorrect. While these kinds of homicides certainly do occur, they do not predominate. Less than 1 in 6 (16 percent of all homicides) occurs during the commission of another crime. Half the time people kill people they know, either family members (16 percent) or friends and acquaintances (33 percent). Victim and assailant are of the same race 90 percent of the time.

Deborah Prothrow-Stith and Michaela Weissman (1991): “Deadly Consequences. How Violence Is Destroying Our Teenage Population and A Plan To Begin Solving The Problem”. p. 21

people in a community. Megan’s Law is named after seven-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a known child molester who had moved across the street from the family without their knowledge. In the wake of the tragedy, the Kankas sought to have local communities warned about sex offenders in the area. All states now have some form of Megan’s Law.

Page 88, chapter 7. Directly copied from the web without any attribution.

California’s Megan’s Law provides the public with certain information on the whereabouts of sex offenders so that members of our local communities may protect themselves and their children. Megan’s Law is named after seven-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a known child molester who had moved across the street from the family without their knowledge. In the wake of the tragedy, the Kankas sought to have local communities warned about sex offenders in the area. All states now have a form of Megan’s Law.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080516040701/http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/homepage.aspx?lang=ENGLISH>



meet them in person. Many of us were stunned in February of 2009 when Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal announced that in response to a subpoena from his office, the social networking site MySpace revealed it has identified about 90,000 convicted, registered sex offenders who are using the site under their own names. Attorney General Blumenthal co-chairs the state attorney general task force on social networking along with North Carolina A.G. Roy Cooper. They are pressing the social networking sites to cooperate with them in preventing predators from operating on these powerful networks.

Page 89, chapter 7. No sources were mentioned, and the phrase "many of us were stunned" gives the impression that the author is sharing a personal perspective, creating an expectation of original wording.

February 3, 2009

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal today announced that in response to a subpoena from his office MySpace revealed it has identified about 90,000 convicted registered sex offenders on the site, 40,000 more than previously acknowledged.

Blumenthal made the announcement with North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, who co-chairs with Blumenthal the state attorney general task force on social networking.

Blumenthal called the revelation powerful evidence refuting a recent task force report downplaying the threat of sexual predators on social networking sites.

[...] These convicted registered sex offenders creating profiles under their own names unmask MySpace's monstrously inadequate counter-measures.

Connecticut Attorney General's Office. (2009): "CT, NC attorneys general say MySpace response to subpoena reveals 90,000 registered sex offenders with profiles". <https://portal.ct.gov/ag/press-releases-archived/2009-press-releases/ct-nc-attorneys-general-say-myspace-response-to-subpoena-reveals-90000-registered-sex-offenders-with>



or emotional abuse. Recently in San Francisco, for example, we successfully prosecuted a man who had committed **a series of restaurant robberies** with an accomplice, in which he carried a gun and deliberately battered and terrorized innocent citizens working in or patronizing these businesses. In one instance, he **bound** a sandwich store clerk **with a phone cord**, and he **forced** other **employees into** a **freezer** and **barred the door**. He was charged with three counts of armed robbery, two counts of attempted armed robbery, and two counts of burglary. The jury convicted the defendant on all but one count of **burglary**. Experiences like these are terrifying for victims and show a wanton disregard for the security and safety each of us has a right to expect. When the judge handed down a sentence of sixty years to life, I explained to reporters who questioned the severity of the sentence that I believed it was entirely appropriate. This defendant demonstrated a pattern of predatory violence. **This defendant's sentence of sixty years to life should tell** anyone considering viciously preying on citizens **and businesses that they will be caught, convicted, and sent to prison—for a very long time.**

Page 124-125, chapter 13. Similar as on page 48, parts of the press release of the DA office were copied into her book. Also again the prosecutor was omitted (underlined on the right) and again “we prosecuted” was used so that readers might think Kamala Harris was the prosecutor. There seem some discrepancies: In the book it is written that “he carried a gun”, while the statements of facts of the court appeal write “both armed with knives” (<https://casetext.com/case/people-v-garrett-353>). It is difficult to verify this

Defendant Sentenced to 60 Years to Life in State Prison for Series of Restaurant Robberies

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — District Attorney Kamala D. Harris announced that Gregory Garrett, age 54 and CTN 2299658 was sentenced to 60 years to life in prison for **a series of restaurant robberies** and attempted robberies.

“We’re prosecuting 34 percent more robberies than a year ago,” said District Attorney Kamala D. Harris. “So anyone out there even thinking about robbing somebody, especially with a gun, should be clear that the consequences will be swift and severe.”

The prosecution of defendant Garrett was the result of a year-long investigation by SFPD Inspector Rob Lynch and lead police officer Aaron Pera. Assistant District Attorney Gerald Norman prosecuted the case. “Assistant DA Norman and the SFPD team did an excellent job with the investigation and prosecution of this case,” said District Attorney Harris.

The sentence was handed down by Superior Court Judge Loretta Georgi following a three-and-a-half-week jury trial that ended on July 8, 2008 with defendant Garrett being convicted of three counts of robbery in violation of Penal Code section 211, two counts of attempted robbery in violation of Penal Code section 664 and one count of burglary in violation of Penal Code section 459.

Judge Georgi sentenced the defendant on October 29, 2008 to 60 years to life in prison and a fine of \$1,200. The defendant will begin serving his sentence immediately.

“Violent robbers will not be allowed to invade our businesses or intimidate us in our homes any longer,” said DA Harris. **This defendant’s sentence of 60 years to life should tell the thieves preying on our homes and businesses that they will be caught, convicted and sent to prison — for a very long time.**

Defendant Gregory Garrett of

Hayward was arrested on January 14, 2007. He was charged with **three counts of armed robbery, two counts of attempted armed robbery and two counts of burglary**. The jury convicted the defendant of all but one count of **burglary**.

The restaurant robbery series began in January 2006, but the major break in the case came on January 14, 2007 when defendant Garrett was caught in the act. Defendant Garrett and a co-defendant, Allan Cook, attempted to rob Trader Vic’s at noon on January 14, 2007. However, their robbery attempt failed because the victim could not open the safe and had no money in her wallet.

On the same day, at 5:00 pm the defendants carried out a takeover robbery at a Subway Sandwich restaurant located in South of Market Street. Defendant Garrett roughed up the owner while Cook held the employees. On defendant Garrett’s order, defendant Cook **bound** the owner **with a phone cord**. Both defendants then **forced** the **employees into** the store’s walk-in **freezer** and **blocked the door** with a heavy table. When the two defendants could not get the safe or the cash register open, defendant Garrett then found and took about \$240.00 in petty cash.

At this time, another employee, who was changing into his work uniform in the bathroom, heard the defendants’ demands for money and called police. When police arrived, defendant Cook fled from the scene, but defendant Garrett was arrested while still inside the restaurant. Defendant Garrett was caught with the stolen money in his pockets. Several weeks later, defendant Cook was arrested. Defendant Cook was convicted in a separate trial and will be sentenced on November 21, 2008.

San Francisco Police Officers Association (SFPOA). (2008). POA Journal, Vol. 40, No. 11, November 2008.

https://sfpoa.org/journal_archives/Vol_40_No_11_November_2008.pdf



further, but it might be that the details were misunderstood or changed to intensify the reader's perception of the crime's severity. More obviously, the book changed the sentence of "bound the owner with a phone cord" to "bound a sandwich store clerk with a phone cord" (in yellow), while also the appeal reveals him as the owner. This alteration might have been done intentionally, as portraying the victim as a low-level employee evokes a stronger emotional response and makes the victim appear more vulnerable. Also this portrayal supports the narrative of her previous statement, that the defendant "terrorized innocent citizens working in" these businesses.

inmates in how to experience empathy and remorse. This is not an easy program: Participants meet six days a week for twelve hours a day and take part in an intensive schedule that involves classes, group learning, and group counseling designed to help them take a hard look at the violence in their lives. When the men are released after serving their sentences, they continue a six-month substance-abuse program or continue in the Post Release Education Program. The men are also required to participate in community restoration activities to begin to make amends for the impact of violence on the community; RSVP conducts workshops and discussions at high schools and other public events to increase awareness about violent crime. A victim restoration component integrates the inmates' activities directly with supporting the victims of violent crime.

Page 127-128, chapter 13. The source is not named, and there is no attribution to it whatsoever.

RSVP involves three integrated components aimed at victims, the community, and the offender. The first component is the victim restoration program. The program provides support to the victims of violent crime by helping them assess the impact of the crime on their lives, assisting with their living and financial situations, and providing general support. RSVP promotes healing and helps victims to transform themselves into survivors and advocates.

The second component of the program addresses issues of community restoration and educating the public on issues of violence. Under this piece, RSVP conducts workshops and discussions at high schools and other public events to increase awareness about violent crime. An annual theater production brings together offenders and victims.

The reentry element of the program is the offender component in which the actual behaviors and attitudes that lead to violence are addressed. The San Francisco County Jail has 62 beds designated for the RSVP program. Six days a week, for 12 hours a day, inmates take part in an intensive program that involves drama classes, group learning, and group counseling designed to help the participants take a hard look at the violence in their lives. After the men are released, they continue their involvement in the program through a six-month substance abuse program or in the Post Release Education Program. The men are also required to participate in community restoration activities.

Amy L. Solomon, Michelle Waul, Asheley Van Ness, Jeremy Travis (2004)

"Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry



*Programs“, Washington, DC: The Urban Institute,
https://webarchive.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410911_OTWResourceGuide.pdf*

Next, we set up what we call District Attorney Mediations. We sat down with the school district to identify students who were most chronically absent. I assigned prosecutors to go to meetings at schools between administrators and parents of truant children, and I encouraged them to look as stern as they could. Suddenly, the principals didn't just have to rely on convincing parents to take seriously the downside of not getting their the children to school. There was a prosecutor sitting there glowering at them. There was the threat of prosecution.

The picture began to brighten. At one high school, overall attendance among the one hundred students in the mediation program improved 40 percent. At another elementary school, we saw a 75 percent drop in the number of chronically absent students. Along the way,

Page 131-132, chapter 14. Most of the article was copied into the book, despite Kamala Harris only being a co-author. The source was not cited at all.

school absence. The district attorney's office is working with the school district and the city to identify students who are habitually absent and to intervene with their parents and guardians before these children drop out.

Over the past two years, we've been holding mediation sessions with parents in several schools, with solid results. At Mission High School, overall attendance among the 100 students in the mediation program improved 40 percent. At Sanchez Elementary School, we saw a 75 percent drop in the number of chronically absent students.

Kamala Harris and Carlos Garcia: "Absent minded: Consequences of truancy hurt entire community". 6 October 2007.

<https://www.sfgate.com/education/article/Absent-minded-Consequences-of-truancy-hurt-2536447.php>



We approach the problem in many ways. We support and refer families to community organizations that can provide after-school safe areas where kids can do homework and develop a peer group of children with a positive attitude about learning and access to adult help. We started a “Stay in School Hotline” where adults can report minors loitering during school hours.

We also encouraged our faith-based community and local businesses to partner with schools to provide mentors for students with attendance problems and offer incentives and awards to recognize student and faculty efforts to improve individual or group attendance. We also ask businesses to use school attendance as a measure for assessing reliability of students they hired for summer jobs.

We invested in promotional efforts to educate students and parents on the importance of regular school attendance, including a citywide bus advertising campaign.

Help is available for parents who may be struggling with barriers that contribute to chronic absenteeism. But to keep our credibility and authority, we also use the sticks at our disposal. After hundreds

multiple opportunities to improve their children's attendance. Help is available for parents who may be struggling with barriers that contribute to chronic absenteeism. However, if students continue to [...]

Call the Stay in School hot line at 701-STAY if you observe minors loitering during school hours.

Support community organizations that can provide after-school safe areas where kids can do homework.

Volunteer as a mentor with organizations such as Big Brothers or Big Sisters.

Help make day care accessible through religious or community organizations.

Businesses can help by:

- Partnering with a school to provide mentors for students with attendance problems and/or offer incentives and awards to recognize student and faculty efforts to improve individual or group attendance.
- Providing financial assistance for promotional efforts to educate students and parents on the importance of regular school attendance.
- Cooperating in efforts to identify students who may be chronically absent by reporting students who are in businesses during school hours.
- Utilizing school attendance as a measure for assessing reliability of students hired for summer jobs.

Page 134, chapter 14. Most of the article was copied into the book, even though it was only co-authored by Kamala Harris (see also page 64-67). The source was not mentioned at all in the book.

Kamala Harris and Carlos Garcia: “Absent minded: Consequences of truancy hurt entire community”. 6 October 2007.

<https://www.sfgate.com/education/article/Absent-minded-Consequences-of-truancy-hurt-2536447.php>



laboration to give teachers support. In 2008, the California State Legislature unanimously passed a bill I wrote with Assemblyman Mark Leno to provide mental health counseling to children traumatized by violence. This allows children who witness violence in their communities to get mental health counseling through the California Victim Compensation Program, which provides up to \$5,000 for therapy and mental health support. Previously, to qualify for mental health counseling services, children had to be related to the victim. That overlooked children who witnessed violence in their communities and suffered emotional trauma as a result.

In addition to this legislation, we also organized teacher training on PTSD led by Dr. Carrion for San Francisco teachers, an exercise that Superintendent Garcia encouraged and supported. As a young man

Page 136, chapter 14. The text closely mirrors a newspaper article, yet the book does not cite the source. The favorable tone of the article (e.g., 'ground-breaking legislation') suggests that it may have originated from a press release authored by Kamala Harris or an assistant, aiming to ensure she was credited for the bill and gained attention ahead of the General Attorney elections.

Kamala Harris' Bill to Protect Children With Trauma

SAN FRANCISCO — This week, the state legislature unanimously passed AB 2809 — San Francisco District Attorney **Kamala D. Harris** and Assemblyman Mark Leno's ground-breaking legislation to provide mental health counseling to kids traumatized by violence.

AB 2809 allows children who witness community violence to receive mental health counseling through the State Victim Compensation Fund. These kids can access up to 5,000 dollars for therapy and mental health support.

Under existing law, to qualify for mental health counseling services, children must be related to the victim. This overlooks kids who witness violence in their communities and suffer emotional trauma as a result.

In collaboration with the school district, Harris is also holding a teacher training tomorrow for SFUSD teachers on childhood trauma, the first in a series. The DA's Office is also working with the school system to set up mechanisms for kids to have more access to mental health services.

AsianWeek Staff: "Daily Dose: 08/25/08". 25 August 2008.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080901130357/https://www.asianweek.com/2008/08/25/daily-dose-082508/>



One study showed that graduates of John School were 30 percent less likely to be rearrested for soliciting a prostitute.⁴² Since 1996, thirty-nine cities in the United States and around the world have modeled programs after San Francisco's.

42. Shively, Michael, et al., Final report on the evaluation of the First Offender Prostitution Program, March 2008. U.S. Dept. of Justice.

Page 143, chapter 15. At first glance, this passage seems to present a scientifically backed evaluation from a reliable source, citing a U.S. Department of Justice report. However, this citation appears to be misleading. While the URL is missing in her book, the referenced report is still accessible (<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/222451.pdf>) and it does not contain the claimed information.

Additionally, the wording closely mirrors a newspaper article (a different article was cited from this newspaper in the book later), showing that the book's research is on this media report rather than original scientific studies. It's likely that the author missed the fact that the study was not yet released (as indicated by the underlined text at the right side), and the March report of the Department of Justice did not contain those results yet.

Yet Valentina's presentation as well as the other components of John School are effective, according to a study to be released in the coming weeks by the U.S. Department of Justice. In the largest study of its kind, researchers concluded that men who attended San Francisco's John School were 30 percent less likely to be rearrested for soliciting a prostitute than men who did not attend such a program. [...]

When the First Offender Prostitution Program began in 1996, it was considered a noble experiment in a progressive city. Since then, 39 cities have modeled programs after San Francisco's.

Justin Berton: "John school takes a bite out of prostitution". SF Gate. 14 April 2008. <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/John-school-takes-a-bite-out-of-prostitution-3219707.php>



and the good life. But a gambling addiction can be a devastating habit with far-reaching consequences, and it is of particular concern for the Asian community. The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American (API) Affairs has adopted problem gambling as one of its priority issues. According to a NICOS Chinese Health Coalition survey, nearly 70 percent of Chinese Americans in San Francisco consider gambling to be a problem in their community, making it the population's number one social concern.⁴⁶ The reason is that problem gambling is often linked to numerous criminal violations, including credit card fraud, embezzlement, writing of bad checks, child neglect, spousal abuse, robbery, theft from employers and family, bookmaking, and shoplifting. It also is linked to other social ills such as divorce and suicide. Behind the gambling, in other words,

Page 160, chapter 18. The green parts can be considered correctly attributed through a footnote (though quotation marks are still necessary), while the red parts reveal hidden copy-and-paste. Although it is linked to her office, the likely author was an assistant, and the copyright is held by "Copyright 1999-2008, City and County of San Francisco."

A problem that can become a devastating habit with far-reaching consequences, gambling is a major concern for the Asian community. The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American (API) Affairs has adopted problem gambling as one of its priority issues for 2005. According to a NICOS survey, nearly 70 percent of Chinese Americans in San Francisco consider gambling a problem in their community, making it the population's number one social concern.

Problem gambling is commonly linked to numerous criminal violations, including credit card fraud, embezzlement, writing of bad checks, child neglect, spousal abuse, robbery, theft from employers and family, bookmaking and shoplifting. It is also linked to other social ills such as divorce and suicide.

San Francisco District Attorney's Office: "Problem Gambling Treatment"
<https://web.archive.org/web/20090101084700/http://www.sfdistrictattorney.org/page.asp?id=47>



most serious threats we prosecutors face in battling gang crime. A 2007 study called "Snitches Get Stitches: Youth, Gangs, and Witness Intimidation in Massachusetts," sponsored by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and the National Center for Victims of Crime, surveyed 641 young people between twelve and eighteen years of age who attended Boys and Girls Clubs in Massachusetts. Twenty-five percent of survey participants said that none of their neighbors would report a gang-related crime, and 64 percent said that people will not report such crimes because they are afraid of retaliation or being killed. The number of young people who reported these attitudes was far higher than the 12 percent of participants who had actually been threatened for reporting a

crime.⁴⁸ My colleagues on the National District Attorney's Association board and I have talked at length about the struggle police investigators and prosecutors around the nation are having finding witnesses willing to cooperate in gang and homicide cases. In some cities, up to 90 percent of gang-related cases involve witness intimidation. Between 2000 and 2005, the Los Angeles Police Department reported a yearly average of more than 778 gang-related witness intimidation offenses.

48. Whitman, Julie L., Davis, Robert C., "Snitches Get Stitches: Youth, gangs, and witness intimidation in Massachusetts." The National Center for Victims of Crime, 2007.

Page 162, chapter 18. Half a page was copied verbatim from a prepared statement she had submitted years earlier for a hearing. This form of self-plagiarism is unethical to readers when it is not made clear that the content has been reused and is not original.

cooperate with law enforcement. In a recent study, "Snitches Get Stitches: Youth, Gangs, and Witness Intimidation in Massachusetts," sponsored by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and the National Center for Victims of Crime, 641 young people between 12 and 18 years old who attend Boys and Girls Clubs in Massachusetts were surveyed. Twenty-five percent of survey participants said that none of their neighbors would report a gang-related crime, and 64 percent said that people will not report such crimes because they are afraid of retaliation or being killed. The number of young people who reported these attitudes was far higher than the 12% of participants who had actually been threatened for reporting a crime.

[...]

Suffolk County, Massachusetts reports that 90% of his office's gun and gang-related cases involve some form of witness intimidation. Baltimore's State's Attorney, Patricia Jessamy, estimates that 90% of her office's homicide prosecutions involve some form of witness intimidation or coercion. Between 2000 and 2005, the Los Angeles Police Department reported a yearly average of more than 778 gang-related witness intimidation offenses.

U.S. House of Representatives (2007): "COPS Improvements Act of 2007, the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007, and the Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007: Hearing before the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security of the Committee on the Judiciary", House of Representatives, 110th Cong.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-110hhrg34926/html/CHRG-110hhrg34926.htm>



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Midtown Community Court

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

File:Midtown Community Court facade.jpg

The Midtown Community Court

Launched in 1993 in the Times Square neighborhood of New York City, the **Midtown Community Court**^[1] takes an innovative approach to quality-of-life offenses, such as prostitution, shoplifting, farebeating and vandalism. The court, which is located on West 54th Street in Manhattan,^[1] has inspired dozens of replications both in the United States,^[2] in cities including Austin, Philadelphia and Portland, Oregon, and abroad,^[3] in countries as varied as South Africa, Great Britain,^[4] Canada,^[5] and Australia.^[6]

The Midtown Community Court was established as a collaboration between the New York State Unified Court System^[2] and the Center for Court Innovation. The court works in partnership with local residents, businesses and social service agencies in order to organize community service projects and provide on-site social services, including drug treatment, mental health counseling, and job training.^[7] Unlike most conventional courts, the Midtown Court combines punishment and help, requiring low-level offenders to pay back the neighborhood through community service while at the same time offering them help with problems that often underlie criminal behavior.^[8]

The court was the subject of an independent evaluation by the National Center for State Courts.^[3] According to the National Center, the court's compliance rate of 75 percent for community service was the highest in the city.^[9] Offenders performing community service contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of labor to the community each year. In conjunction with aggressive law enforcement and economic development efforts, the court has had an impact on neighborhood crime: prostitution arrests dropped 56 percent and illegal vending was down 24 percent.



can community residents, businesses, and service providers play in improving justice?"⁴⁹

Judges have utilized community service as part of their sentencing options for many years. The trouble is, assigning an offender to perform community service is one thing; actually monitoring and making sure it happens is another. It's true that the offender is in contempt of court if he or she does not perform the service, but many addicts or homeless individuals are too disorganized or mentally ill to actually comply with the order, so they just add yet another offense to their records, and the cycle continues.

According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Midtown Court's compliance rate of 75 percent for community service was the highest in the city and actually had an impact on neighborhood crime: Prostitution arrests dropped 56 percent and illegal vending was down 24 percent. It's credited with reducing lower level crime throughout Manhattan and cleaning up Times Square.

Inspired by these kinds of numbers, more than a dozen other cities have followed suit. There are now thriving community courts in Minnesota, Oregon, Florida, Connecticut, and elsewhere. Not all use the same model. Midtown Community Court was really the brainchild of innovators in the New York court system itself. Programs in many other states have been driven by prosecutors. In addition, the types of crimes handled in these courts vary, although there has been great support from communities for having them handle offenders who commit quality-of-life crimes such as vandalism, public drunkenness, prostitution, and car burglaries.

Notes

1. [^] The Midtown Community Court's address is 314 W. 54th St., New York, NY 10019
2. [^] "Community Courts: An Evolving Model" (PDF). U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance.
3. [^] "Community Justice Around the Globe: An International Overview" (PDF). Crime & Justice International.
4. [^] For more information about community courts in Great Britain, see the British government's official web site at <http://www.communityjustice.gov.uk/index.htm>
5. [^] For more information about the Vancouver Community Justice Centre, see http://www.criminaljusticereform.gov.bc.ca/en/justice_reform_projects/community_court/index.html
6. [^] For more information about the Collingwood Community Justice Centre in Melbourne, Australia, see <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/DOJ+Internet/Home/The+Justice+System/Neighbourhood+Justice/>
7. [^] For an overview of how the court works, see "How It Works: A Summary of Case Flow and Interventions at the Midtown Community Court" (PDF). Center for Court Innovation.
8. [^] To learn about the underlying principles that guide the Midtown Community Court, see "Community Court Principles: A Guide for Planners" (PDF). Center for Court Innovation.
9. [^] The National Center survey was published as a book. See "Dispensing Justice Locally: The Implementation and Effects of the Midtown Community Court". Routledge.

Category: New York state courts

Wikipedia: "Midtown Community Court". Revision as of 21 May 2009.
https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Midtown_Community_Court&oldid=291329366



49. Lee, Eric. “Community Courts: An evolving model,” Center for Court Innovation, October 2000.

Page 165-166, chapter 19. Most of the **Wikipedia article was copied** (sometimes with slight rewording) **yet Wikipedia was not cited or mentioned anywhere** in the book or its footnotes.

She also **falsifies** by changing Wikipedia’s “According to the National Center” to “According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance” thereby misattributing the source. The information (like the 75% compliance rate, that “prostitution arrests” “dropped 56 percent” and that arrests for vending was down 24 percent) are only in the book mentioned in Wikipedia and are not included in the previously mentioned Bureau of Justice Assistance report.

She also did not pay attention and copied blindly from Wikipedia that “illegal vending was down 24 percent“, whereas the survey actually stated “arrests for unlicensed vending [...] dropped by 24 percent“, as only arrests were measured.

She also included a lengthy quotation directly from the Foreword of the document linked in the Wikipedia article (the part highlighted in blue). Besides the questionable use of the quotation, it is unclear why it wasn’t directly attributed to the actual author, Nancy E. Gist, whose authorship of the Foreword is clearly indicated. The document is still available here: <https://www.ojp.gov/textfiles1/bja/183452.txt>



Take West Palm Beach, Florida. This residential neighborhood on the outskirts of downtown struggles with a high crime rate. Although West Palm Beach is less than one mile from Palm Beach, one of the most affluent cities in the country, more than a third of the town's residents live in poverty, and unemployment is high. The community is full of deteriorated houses and businesses, vacant lots with discarded mattresses and piles of trash, and litter strewn throughout the streets, sidewalks, yards, and parks. At the time the community considered adding a court, no new businesses had opened in the area, and few new houses had been built in recent years.

Page 166-167, still chapter 19. After copying from the Wikipedia article, she continues by copying from the PDF linked in the Wikipedia article's first reference. Although she acknowledges at the end of the book that she took examples of community courts from that report (without providing the URL), the copied sections are presented as if they were her own words. The word-for-word copying still requires quotation marks to maintain proper attribution.

West Palm Beach Community Court, West Palm Beach, Florida

The West Palm Beach Community Court serves the West Palm Beach Weed and Seed area, a residential neighborhood on the outskirts of downtown struggling with a high crime rate. Although West Palm Beach is less than 1 mile from Palm Beach, one of the most affluent cities in the country, 41 percent of the neighborhood's 5,360 residents live in poverty and the unemployment rate stands at 20 percent. The physical characteristics of the community are striking: deteriorated houses and businesses, vacant lots with discarded mattresses and piles of trash, and litter strewn throughout the streets, sidewalks, yards, and parks. No new businesses have opened in the area, and few new houses have been built in recent years.

Eric Lee (2000): "Community Courts. An Evolving Model"

<https://web.archive.org/web/20110524001006/http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/communitycourtsevolvingmodel.pdf>



Goodwill Industries has been an extraordinary partner to Back on Track. Founded in 1916, Goodwill is dedicated to creating solutions to poverty through workforce creation and environmental stewardship, retail stores, an online store, and an extensive reuse/recycling operation. The organization's goal is to help people overcome barriers to employment, build sustainable livelihoods, and transform their lives and communities. Goodwill offers numerous employment programs and services designed to help individuals develop a career path that matches their abilities and goals to the requirements of the labor market. Deborah Alvarez-Rodriguez, President and CEO, Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties, always emphasizes the importance of

Page 171, chapter 21. She copy-pasted self-promotional content without citing the source and merely adapted it by changing "we" to "the organization's goal" and stopping just before the word "Our."

Founded in 1916, Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin Counties is dedicated to creating solutions to poverty through workforce creation and environmental stewardship. With 17 retail stores, an online store and an extensive reuse/recycling operation, we help people overcome barriers to employment, build sustainable livelihoods, and transform their lives and communities. Goodwill offers numerous employment programs and services designed to help individuals develop a career path that matches their abilities and goals to the requirements of the labor market. Our retail stores offer quality used goods at affordable prices and feature specialties such as athletic items, boutique fashions, and vintage.

Charity Navigator: "Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin Counties"

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080928090305/http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=3764>



a wonderful nonprofit started by my friends Laurene Powell Jobs and Carlos Watson, called College Track, which is based in East Palo Alto, California. In the mid-1990s Laurene and Carlos began volunteering at a local high school, and they noticed that students of color were often automatically placed in remedial classes their freshman year. That not only meant that many suddenly were studying well below their capabilities, but they no longer were taking the required courses for college admission. The students were oftentimes frustrated, but their parents did not necessarily know how to be their advocates; sometimes they didn't even speak English. So, the pair started College Track in 1997 to help low-income students boost their grades, apply to college, and obtain scholarships.

There was an excellent story in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about the program that began with a sentence describing a College Track participant. "David Cruz, a 21-year-old graduate of UC Berkeley, is not just the only man in his family to have gone to college—he's the only man in his family who has never been in jail."⁵¹ That, to me, is a powerful endorsement of the enormous return we can get from investing in a future, a life, and a family, with education. David's

Page 172, chapter 20. The parts in pink and yellow seem like her own words but are actually copied from an article referenced in a subsequent paragraph. Only the part in green is properly citing the source. As a sidenote: her quote is ending right before the part mentioning that the beneficiary was often involved in physical altercations. This omission may have been intentional, as it could seem unfair to peaceful students without gang affiliations, who may not easily gain admission to UC Berkeley, receive

David Cruz, a 21-year-old graduate of UC Berkeley, is not just the only man in his family to have gone to college – he's the only man in his family who has never been in jail. But he's seen his share of fights.

[...]

Cruz and Laurene Powell, a former Goldman Sachs analyst and wife of Apple Inc. co-founder Steve Jobs, are unlikely friends. But they've become protege and mentor, thanks to College Track, an organization Powell helped create. The educational nonprofit was founded in East Palo Alto in 1997 to help low-income students boost their grades, apply to college and obtain scholarships.

[...]

Both began volunteering at Carlmont High School in Belmont in 1995, in a program called AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination – and noticed that students of color were often automatically placed in remedial classes their freshman year. The result was that those students were not taking classes at a level necessary for college admittance, so dozens, if not hundreds, of smart kids were sidelined.



scholarships, or gain career support from a multi-billionaire. Instead, they are often on the receiving end of physical beatings and may struggle to understand why violent individuals would receive such invaluable career support in their place. This multi-billionaire friend also played a key role in elevating Kamala to the highest levels of power.

Carolyn Zinko (2008): "On Track to College". SFGATE.com. 8 June 2008.
<https://www.sfgate.com/magazine/article/On-Track-to-College-3281488.php>

and comprehensive as something like College Track. In Atlanta, the Partnership for Perfect Attendance is very simple. The Fulton County District Attorney's Office initiated an incentive program at three elementary schools in the Atlanta Public School system that were struggling with high absenteeism. The Dwight Howard Foundation, Target, Inc., and AirTran Airways got together and offered a special incentive for perfect attendance: a new bike and a helmet. The three schools gained a 39 percent overall increase in their perfect attendance record for the 2007-2008 school year. Few things in life are more exciting to

Page 173, chapter 20. No source was mentioned. After stating that the program for elementary school students would be "very simple," it should be easy enough to describe it in one's own words.

Program partners "The Dwight Howard Foundation", Target, Inc., AirTran Airways, and Fulton County District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr. will mark the third year of the [...]

With the promise of a new bicycle and helmet as an enticement, students from Adamsville, Benteen, Perkerson and Thomasville Heights elementary schools worked hard to gain a 39% overall increase overall in their perfect attendance record for the 2007-2008 school year. Dwight Howard will recognize their hard work by personally greeting each student, [...]

About Partnership for Perfect Attendance

In 2005, The Fulton County District Attorney's Office initiated an incentive program at three elementary schools in the Atlanta Public Schools system that were struggling with high absenteeism. Students were challenged to achieve perfect attendance with the promise of a new bicycle and helmet if they met their goal. Parents and teachers were challenged to encourage the students to stay on track.

Press Release of the Office of the Fulton County District Attorney (2008).
<https://web.archive.org/web/20110910203623/http://atlantada.org/latestnews/pressreleases/052208b.htm>



enforcement. High Point had its first face-to-face meeting with drug dealers, from the city's West End neighborhood, on May 18, 2004. The drug market shut down immediately and permanently, with a sustained 35 percent reduction in violent crime. High Point repeated the strategy in three additional markets over the next three years. There is virtually no remaining public drug dealing in the city, and serious crime has fallen 20 percent citywide.

The High Point strategy has since been implemented in Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and Raleigh, North Carolina; in Providence, Rhode Island; and in Rockford, Illinois. The U.S. Department of Justice is launching a national program to replicate the strategy in ten additional cities. When the High Point, North Carolina, police department won the 2007 Innovations in American Government Award from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Chief Fealy described the impressive program: "It produces results that are so dramatic it's almost incredible. It is sustainable. It does not produce the community harms that our traditional street-sweeping, unfocused efforts have. The most important benefit of this work by the people of High Point is the reconciliation that emerges from the dialogue between the minority community and the police. It's nothing short of miraculous." Added Professor Kennedy: "The High Point work is the most gratifying I have ever done. . . . We're finally getting somewhere."⁵³

53. Both comments quoted in press release at
<http://johnjay.cuny.edu/948.php>

The High Point, North Carolina police department yesterday received the 2007 Innovations in American Government Award from the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. This prestigious award is being given to High Point for their [...]

High Point chief of police James Fealy said, "It produces results that are so dramatic it's almost incredible. It is sustainable. It does not produce the community harms that our traditional street-sweeping, unfocused efforts have. The most important benefit of this work by the people of High Point is the reconciliation that emerges from the dialogue between the minority community and the police. It's nothing short of miraculous."

"The High Point work is the most gratifying I've ever done," says Professor Kennedy. "I got into the crime prevention field because of the crack epidemic and what it was doing to communities, and after all this time perhaps we're finally getting somewhere. This holds out hope for protecting communities both from [...]"

Professor Kennedy worked with the High Point Police Department to refine and implement the strategy. High Point had its first face-to-face meeting with drug dealers, from the city's West End neighborhood, on May 18th, 2004. The drug market shut down immediately and permanently, with a sustained 35% reduction in violent crime. High Point repeated the strategy in three additional markets over the next three years. There is virtually no remaining public drug dealing in the city, and serious crime has fallen 20% citywide.

The High Point strategy has since been implemented in Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and Raleigh, NC; in Providence, RI; and in Rockford, IL. The US Department of Justice is launching a national program to replicate the strategy in ten cities.



Page 181, chapter 21. Only the parts highlighted in green were acknowledged as being taken from the press release, while half of the page (the parts in red, yellow, and blue) were copied without attribution.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice (2007): “High Point Police Department Wins Innovation Award for Drug Market Strategy Designed by Professor David Kennedy”. 25 September 2007. <https://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/newsroom/948.php>

Gangs are not new. In the last century, law enforcement battled extensive organized crime networks in large cities. The Mob ran bootlegging operations, extortion, loan-sharking, smuggling, and prostitution rings, and left a murderous wake. Today, many U.S. cities are faced with vicious and growing gang activity. For example, the City of Los Angeles is home to the largest and most established gang population in the country, with over 400 separate gangs and an estimated 39,000 gang members. In Los Angeles in 2007, for example, 1,323 people were victims of gang shootings. Gang-related violent crime included 3,256 aggravated assaults, 216 homicides, and 2,719 carjackings and other robberies.⁵⁴ In urban areas across the country, moreover, we have gangs that have migrated from Russia, Southeast Asia, and Central America who are terrorizing communities large and small. Gangs traffic guns, drugs, and sometimes people, across both state and international borders.

54. Report: Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, “City of Los Angeles Gang Reduction Strategy.” Presented April 18, 2008.

Page 184-185, chapter 22: Although a source (without a URL) was mentioned, it was surprising to see how much content was copied word-for-word. The footnote implied that only one or two sentences of information

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Of all the public safety challenges facing Los Angeles, street gangs have proven the most intractable. Our City is home to the largest and most established gang population in the country with over 400 separate gangs and an estimated 39,000 gang members.

These criminal gangs exact a tragic toll. Last year alone, 272 people lost their lives to gang violence, while over 1,500 people were victims of gang-related shootings. Although overall crime continued to decline for the fifth straight year, gang-related crime increased 14% in 2006. As a result, too many innocent Angelenos live in fear of indiscriminate gang violence resulting from petty disputes over drugs, turf, and revenge.

Gangs don't simply terrorize neighborhoods; they deplete our most valuable asset: the next generation of community, business, and City leaders. We have seen gangs turn to recruiting younger and younger members from our schools and playgrounds. In poor neighborhoods, gangs promise a life of easy wealth, close-knit community, and physical protection. Yet gang life leads only to economic isolation, crime, and violence.

Putting gangs out of business is our top public safety priority. Gangs are not new, but our response to disrupting their organizations and illegal activities must be. While Los Angeles has been on the cutting edge of anti-gang policing

But gang-related violence remains a constant threat to vulnerable Los Angeles neighborhoods. According to Los Angeles Police Department statistics, 1,323 people were victims of gang shootings in 2007. Gang-related violent crime included 3,256 aggravated assaults, 216 homicides, and 2,719 carjackings and other robberies.

The perpetrators and victims of gang violence are overwhelmingly African American and Latino youth. The time to save our youth and protect vulnerable communities is now — before gang violence



were expected to be paraphrased. Using quotation marks would have been the more honest approach in this case.

As a sidenote, it is worth noting how she diverged from the original source (Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa) by mentioning gangs from Russia and Southeast Asia, even placing them first, which implies they were the primary contributors to gang violence in the U.S.

(The original report from Antonio R. Villaraigosa may contain more copied parts, but it is not retrievable without a URL, so two similar reports by Villaraigosa showed how his words were copied.)

Antonio R. Villaraigosa (2007): “City of Los Angeles Gang Reduction Strategy”. Presented April 18, 2007

<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/32068.pdf> &

Antonio R. Villaraigosa: Foreword, in: “Healing Our Neighborhoods. A Citywide Partnership To Combat Gang Crime” (2008)

https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2009/09-2017_RPT_MAYOR_01-05-11.pdf



Copy and Paste from the Book into Interviews

Left column: self-plagiarism by Harris in interviews. Right column: corresponding sections from her book.



*Interview with Kamala Harris by Barry Leibowitz,
Senior Writer at 48 Hours / Mystery*

What's the biggest misconception Americans have about how to fight crime?

Harris: First off, this book is predicated on one main premise, which is that all Americans have the right to live in safe communities. Having spent nearly two decades as a courtroom prosecutor, I know that it simply is not enough to just talk tough about crime. I want us to be "smart on crime." That means in order to make our communities safer, we have to take a strategic approach to changing the status quo, because our current system is failing all of us. In the

[...]

principles of economics to the fight against crime. It is crucial to ask how we can achieve the most safety for the lowest cost. We have spent billions of dollars on ineffective solutions that have not delivered the safety we must demand.

In this book, I want to do something that I concede is challenging. I want to show you our nation's crime problem in a new way, through the eyes of a prosecutor charged with keeping a community safe. I want you to see how it really works, who is involved, what is involved, and how we can do a better job. I want to show you the distinctions that are critical to developing solutions that work. And above all, I want us all to do more than just talk tough about crime. I want us to be what I call "Smart on Crime." That means taking a strategic approach to changing the status quo and short-circuiting the criminal careers of offenders much earlier, and getting offenders out of the system permanently. It is well within our reach to create a future with safer streets, lower rates of recidivism, and a stronger, better-educated workforce. It is a future that reverses the tragic waste of human potential that has become the hallmark of our prison system.

This book is predicated on one main premise: that all Americans have the right to live in safe communities and have the ability to vigorously defend that right. In this, political ideology doesn't matter. This is neither a liberal nor a conservative prescription for change. Getting Smart on Crime does not mean reducing sentences or punishments for crimes. It does mean using the time and resources we now spend on offenders more productively to reduce their odds of re-offending. And it means investing in comprehensive



One of the main reasons we haven't been able to effectively prevent nonviolent crime is that we have been using only the tools best suited to combating the offenders at the top of the pyramid. For several decades, the passage of tough laws and long sentences has created an illusion in the public's mind that public safety is best served when we treat all offenders the same way: arrest, convict, imprison, parole, and hope they learn their lesson. But the numbers paint the true story, which is that most nonviolent offenders are learning the wrong lesson, and in many cases, they are becoming more hardened criminals.

What do you tell critics who think trying to transform criminals into responsible citizens means you're "soft on crime"?

Harris: Getting smart on crime does not mean reducing sentences or punishments for crimes. Being smart on crime means using the time and resources we now spend on offenders more productively to reduce their odds of re-offending.

For decades we have spent billions of dollars on ineffective solutions that have not improved public safety. I believe that especially in these tough

[...]

The problem is that we have been using only the tools best suited to combating the offenders at the top of the pyramid, and we have been using them on the entire crime pyramid. For several decades, the passage of tough laws and long sentences has created an illusion in the public's mind that public safety is best served when we treat all offenders pretty much the same way: arrest, convict, imprison, parole, and hope they learn their lesson. What the numbers say loud and clear, however, is that most nonviolent offenders are learning the wrong lesson, and in many cases, they are becoming better and more hardened criminals during their prison stays.

Kamala Harris: "Smart on Crime". Preface & Introduction, p. 12-13



*CBS News Interview by Barry Leibowitz: "Book 'em: Smart on Crime". 26
February 2010. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/book-em-smart-on-crime>*

That saves our city roughly \$1 million per year in jail costs alone. When you add in the total expense of criminal prosecutions to taxpayers, including court costs, public defenders, state prison, and probation, the savings are closer to \$2 million. And we cannot even begin to quantify the value of these individuals' future productivity, taxes and child support payments, or the brightened prospects for their children.

*CBS News Interview by Barry Leibowitz: "Book 'em: Smart on Crime". 26
February 2010. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/book-em-smart-on-crime>*

For every one hundred participants we have so far served, we have saved our city at least \$1 million per year in local jail costs. When you add in the total expense of cases to taxpayers, including court costs, public defenders, state prison, and probation, the savings are closer to \$2 million. And we can barely begin to calculate the value of these individuals' future productivity, taxes and child support paid, and the improvement in the quality of their families.

Kamala Harris: "Smart on Crime". Introduction, p. 25



Copying responses from one interview to fabricate another

Q: What does it mean to be "smart on crime?" Are we not being smart now? Why and how does your book address this idea?

This book is predicated on one main premise, which is that all Americans have the right to live in safe communities. Having spent nearly two decades as a courtroom prosecutor, I know that it simply is not enough to just talk tough about crime. I want us to be what I call "smart on crime." That means in order to make our communities safer, we have to take a strategic approach to changing the status quo -- because our current system is failing all of us.

In the book, I first address some of the myths and outdated approaches that I believe are failing. In the second half of the book, I outline the ways in which I believe we can chart a new course for tackling these long-standing problems.

Interview by Kimberly Marteau Emerson in Huffpost: "San Francisco D.A. Kamala Harris Talks To Kimberly Marteau About Her New Book Smart On Crime". 18 March 2010. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/san-francisco-da-kamala-h_b_369505

Interview with Kamala Harris by Barry Leibowitz, Senior Writer at 48 Hours / Mystery

What's the biggest misconception Americans have about how to fight crime?

Harris: First off, this book is predicated on one main premise, which is that all Americans have the right to live in safe communities. Having spent nearly two decades as a courtroom prosecutor, I know that it simply is not enough to just talk tough about crime. I want us to be "smart on crime." That means in order to make our communities safer, we have to take a strategic approach to changing the status quo, because our current system is failing all of us. In the book, I first address some of the myths and outdated approaches that I believe are failing. In the second half of the book, I outline the ways in which I believe we can chart a new course for tackling these long-standing problems.

CBS News Interview by Barry Leibowitz: "Book 'em: Smart on Crime". 26 February 2010. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/book-em-smart-on-crime>



What do you tell critics who think trying to transform criminals into responsible citizens means you're "soft on crime"?

Harris: Getting smart on crime does not mean reducing sentences or punishments for crimes. Being smart on crime means using the time and resources we now spend on offenders more productively to reduce their odds of re-offending.

For decades we have spent billions of dollars on ineffective solutions that have not improved public safety. I believe that especially in these tough economic times, it is critical that we evaluate the cost of action versus the cost of inaction. I strongly believe that for serious and violent criminals, we absolutely must hold them accountable for their crimes and send them to prison. But as I discuss in the book, we must take a smarter approach when it comes to combating nonviolent crime. And it is also essential that when we look at investing in innovative ways to fight crime before it occurs, we must weigh the short-term costs of action versus the long-term costs of inaction.

Interview by Kimberly Marteau Emerson in Huffpost: "San Francisco D.A. Kamala Harris Talks To Kimberly Marteau About Her New Book Smart On Crime". 18 March 2010. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/san-francisco-da-kamala-h_b_369505

Q: In the book, you talk about how important it is to look at the criminal justice system through economic eyes. In a time of extremely limited public resources, how do we justify allocating those resources to anything other than investigating crimes and prosecuting criminals, especially violent crimes?

Getting smart on crime does not mean reducing sentences or punishments for crimes. It does mean using the time and resources we now spend on offenders more productively to reduce their odds of re-offending.

Remember, for decades we have spent billions of dollars on ineffective solutions that have not improved public safety. I believe that especially in these tough economic times, it is critical that we evaluate the cost of action versus the cost of inaction. I strongly believe that for serious and violent criminals, we must absolutely hold them accountable for their crimes and send them to prison. But as I discuss in the book, we must take a smarter approach when it comes to combating nonviolent crime. And it is also essential that when we look at investing in innovative ways to fight crime before it occurs, we must weigh the short-term costs of action versus the long-term costs of inaction.

CBS News Interview by Barry Leibowitz: "Book 'em: Smart on Crime". 26 February 2010. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/book-em-smart-on-crime>



Q: Can you please explain the "crime pyramid" and what it reveals about the weaknesses in crime prevention? Why are our harsh sentences not deterring some kinds of crimes?

I have found that the "crime pyramid" is an effective way to visualize the totality of crimes committed in our society, and an effective way to communicate about how we can best fight crime -- because as you know "crime" is not monolithic. Visualizing this pyramid, at the top are the very worst crimes: murder, rape, violent assaults, crimes that so rightly command our attention. While these crimes are so horrific and threatening, they form the very top of the pyramid because they constitute the minority of crimes. Did you know that only one fourth of all offenders sentenced to prison are violent offenders?

One of the main reasons we haven't been able to effectively prevent nonviolent crime is that we have been using only the tools best suited to combating the offenders at the top of the pyramid. For several decades, the passage of tough laws and long sentences has created an illusion in the public's mind that public safety is best served when we treat all offenders pretty much the same way: arrest, convict, imprison, parole, and hope they learn their lesson. But the numbers paint the true story, which is that most nonviolent offenders are learning the wrong lesson, and in many cases, they are becoming more hardened criminals during their imprisonment.

Interview by Kimberly Marteau Emerson in Huffpost: "San Francisco D.A. Kamala Harris Talks To Kimberly Marteau About Her New Book Smart On Crime". 18 March 2010. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/san-francisco-da-kamala-h_b_369505

We must also recognize that "crime" is not monolithic. I have found that the "crime pyramid" is an effective way to visualize the totality of crimes committed in our society, and an effective way to communicate about how we can best fight crime. Visualizing this pyramid, at the top are the very worst crimes: murder, rape, violent assaults, crimes that rightly command our attention. While these crimes are so horrific and threatening, they form the very top of the pyramid because they constitute the minority of crimes - as only one fourth of all offenders sentenced to prison are violent offenders.

One of the main reasons we haven't been able to effectively prevent nonviolent crime is that we have been using only the tools best suited to combating the offenders at the top of the pyramid. For several decades, the passage of tough laws and long sentences has created an illusion in the public's mind that public safety is best served when we treat all offenders the same way: arrest, convict, imprison, parole, and hope they learn their lesson. But the numbers paint the true story, which is that most nonviolent offenders are learning the wrong lesson, and in many cases, they are becoming more hardened criminals.

What do you tell critics who think trying to transform

CBS News Interview by Barry Leibowitz: "Book 'em: Smart on Crime". 26 February 2010. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/book-em-smart-on-crime>



Q: You are very proud of "Back on Track," a re-entry program that you started out of the San Francisco DA's office in 2005. How does it fit into your *Smart on Crime* ideas?

The old approach to fighting crime is well-known. Police and prosecutors are deluged with low-level drug cases, and the public spends billions on prisons to house these offenders. And, every year, prisons release hundreds of thousands of these offenders back into our communities. They have no plan, no skills, nowhere to go, and they pick up right where they left off. Within three years of release, 70 percent of California prisoners will re-offend and return to prison.

That is why in 2005, I created an initiative called Back On Track. Back on Track is a reentry program designed for nonviolent, first-time drug offenders. These are young people who are mostly in their early 20's, have no prior criminal records and were caught for low-level drug offenses. None of their cases involves gangs, guns, or weapons.

We give them a choice: they can go through a tough, year-long program that will require them to get educated, stay employed, be responsible parents, drug test, and transition to a crime-free life, or they can go to jail. Those who choose Back On Track plead guilty to their crime, and their sentence is deferred while they appear before a judge every two weeks for about a year. They must obtain a high-school-equivalency diploma and hold down a steady job. Fathers need to remain in good standing on their child-support payments, and everyone has to take parenting classes. For people who hit all of these milestones, the felony charge is going to be cleared from their records.

Police and prosecutors are deluged with low-level drug cases, and the public spends billions on prisons to warehouse these offenders. And, every year, prisons release hundreds of thousands of these offenders back into our communities. They have no plan, no skills, nowhere to go, and they pick up right where they left off.

That is why in 2005, I created an initiative called Back On Track. Back on Track is a reentry initiative designed to redirect young people who are mostly in their early 20's, have no prior criminal records and were caught for low-level drug offenses. None of their cases involves gangs, guns, or weapons.

We give them a choice: they can go through a tough, year-long program that will require them to get educated, stay employed, be responsible parents, drug test, and transition to a crime-free life, or they can go to jail. Those who choose Back On Track plead guilty to their crime, and their jail sentence is deferred while they appear before a judge every two weeks for at least a year. They must obtain a high-school-equivalency diploma and hold down a steady job. Fathers need to get and stay in good standing on their child-support payments, and everyone has to take parenting classes. For people who hit all of these milestones, the felony charge is going to be cleared from their records.



The results speak for the wisdom of investing in reentry programs. For this population, the recidivism re-offense rate is above 50 percent. Four years into this initiative, recidivism has been less than 10 percent among Back On Track graduates. And the program costs only \$5,000 per person, compared to over \$40,000 a year for county jail. That saves our city roughly \$1 million per year in jail costs alone. When you add in the total expense of criminal prosecutions to taxpayers, including court costs, public defenders, state prison, and probation, the savings are closer to \$2 million. And we cannot even begin to quantify the value of these individuals' future productivity, taxes and child support payments, or the brightened prospects for their children.

That is why both Governor Schwarzenegger and the US Department of Justice have recognized Back on Track as a model for both our state and nation.

Interview by Kimberly Marteau Emerson in Huffpost: "San Francisco D.A. Kamala Harris Talks To Kimberly Marteau About Her New Book Smart On Crime". 18 March 2010. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/san-francisco-da-kamala-h_b_369505

The results speak for the wisdom of investing in reentry programs. For this population, the recidivism (or re-offense rate) is typically 50 percent or higher. Four years into this initiative, recidivism has been less than 10 percent among Back On Track participants. And the program costs only \$5,000 per person, compared to over \$35,000 a year for county jail. That saves our city roughly \$1 million per year in jail costs alone. When you add in the total expense of criminal prosecutions to taxpayers, including court costs, public defenders, state prison, and probation, the savings are closer to \$2 million. And we cannot even begin to quantify the value of these individuals' future productivity, taxes and child support payments, or the brightened prospects for their families.

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CBS News Interview by Barry Leibowitz: "Book 'em: Smart on Crime". 26 February 2010. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/book-em-smart-on-crime>



Re-use of the book in the inaugural remarks

It's important to remember our history. This wasn't always the case. We didn't always have Lady Justice balancing the scales with her blindfold and sword in hand. In the early days of common law, there was no public prosecutor. People had to fend for themselves. Lone individuals were forced to press charges and present cases on their own, often compelled to weigh the balance of a family's livelihood against the immediate moral necessity of justice.

It goes without saying: This was an especially oppressive system for everyday working people – a system that ultimately and tragically led many victims to seek justice outside of the law.

So, I believe we should be especially proud as Americans that the office of the public prosecutor was one of the first legal innovations that emerged in the United States. To be sure, it is one of the most profound innovations in the entire history of the rule of law. And it was based on a rather revolutionary notion – that a crime against any one of us is a crime against all of us.

Many times I have looked into the eyes of a crime victim and repeated this promise. It's not you alone versus the defendant. It's the people. The people of the State of California.

“Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Inaugural Remarks” (2011)

https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press_releases/n2021_final_speech.pdf

This role for law enforcement speaks to a basic philosophy of American justice: We are all in this together. We seek stability, calm, and safety. Crime brings chaos, and thus is unacceptable. I can't tell you how many times I have looked into the eyes of a frightened crime victim or witness and repeated this important principle. I often show them the actual language of a criminal complaint, such as, “The People of the State of California v. John Smith.” Civil lawsuits are about one person versus another. Our

To appreciate the significance of Hynes's approach, it's important to understand the job of a prosecutor and how it has evolved in our country. In the early days of English common law, there was no public prosecutor. People were allowed to accuse others of various misdeeds and to press charges, but they were supposed to prosecute on their own at their own expense. Clearly that was an excessive burden for common working people, and alleviating that burden was one of the first legal innovations that emerged in colonial America. Our founding fathers established a public office of prosecution to act on the notion that a crime against any one of us is a crime against all of us and worthy of our collective efforts to bring justice to the situation.

Kamala Harris: “Smart on Crime”. Chapter 2



As a 20-year courtroom prosecutor, I've tried just about every crime you can imagine. I have prosecuted sadistic criminals who have committed the most heinous, unspeakable acts against other people. I have spent hours poring over autopsy photographs. Always someone's daughter. Someone's son. Someone's child. I've prosecuted manipulative predators who commit sexual assaults on children. I have prosecuted conduct so destructive that my first and only instinct is to remove the perpetrator from free society – forever. And I have spent countless hours with victims.

“Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Inaugural Remarks” (2011)

https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press_releases/n2021_final_speech.pdf

behavior, behavior that we all wish did not exist. I have prosecuted sadistic criminals who've committed heinous, unspeakable acts. I have spent hours poring over crime scene and autopsy photographs with coroners while we analyze the violence that has taken the life of the person in the photographs. Somebody's daughter. Somebody's father. Somebody's husband. I have prosecuted the manipulative predators who commit sexual assaults on children. I have prosecuted conduct that is so destructive that my first and only priority has been to remove the perpetrator from free society for as long as humanly possible. Sometimes, forever.

Kamala Harris: “Smart on Crime”. Introduction

communities on the outside. What the numbers say loud and clear is most non-violent offenders are learning the wrong lesson, and in many cases, they are becoming better and more hardened criminals during their prison stay.

“Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Inaugural Remarks” (2011)

https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press_releases/n2021_final_speech.pdf

parole, and hope they learn their lesson. What the numbers say loud and clear, however, is that most nonviolent offenders are learning the wrong lesson, and in many cases, they are becoming better and more hardened criminals during their prison stays.

Kamala Harris: “Smart on Crime”. Introduction



Copying from the Book to a White Paper

Parts of the “Smart on Crime” book were copied into a white paper aimed at criminalizing parents when their children skip school.

In the District Attorney's Office, we are in a unique position to bring a new kind of accountability to this problem. Because California law requires that children between 6 and 18 years of age attend school, prosecutors have the statutory right to prosecute parents who do not make sure their children get to school.

Kamala Harris (2010): “Pay Attention Now or Pay the Price Later” (2010).
<https://web.archive.org/web/20101128001153/https://sfdistrictattorney.org/pdfs/SFDA.Truancy.White.Paper.FINAL.pdf>

cisco, truancy had grown to alarming proportions. I recognized that the school system might be outside my jurisdiction as District Attorney, but I also realized that I was in a unique position to bring a new kind of accountability to this problem. Because California law requires that children between six and eighteen years of age attend school, as District Attorney I have the statutory right to prosecute parents who do not make sure those children get there.

Kamala Harris: “Smart on Crime” (2009). Chapter 14, page 130

We began the San Francisco Truancy Reduction Initiative three years ago by convening a meeting with all the principals and school administrators in the City. There, we announced that we intended to prosecute parents for truancy. Half of the room applauded while the other half was visibly upset, concerned that law enforcement cannot solve what is often a complicated social problem.

Kamala Harris (2010): “Pay Attention Now or Pay the Price Later” (2010).
<https://web.archive.org/web/20101128001153/https://sfdistrictattorney.org/pdfs/SFDA.Truancy.White.Paper.FINAL.pdf>

But, I started making phone calls and setting up meetings. I went to the superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District, and she convened a meeting with all the principals and administrators in the city. The room was packed. I shared with them how much I honor teachers and my gratitude for Mrs. Frances Wilson. I explained that I'm a proud product of California public schools.

But then I got to the heart of the matter—that a child going without an education is tantamount to a crime. And so, I said, “I've decided to prosecute parents for truancy.” The audience erupted. Half of the audience sneered and were visibly upset; the other half clapped and

Kamala Harris: “Smart on Crime” (2009). Chapter 14, page 130-131



Throughout the world, the first 25 years of life involve a series of forks in the road. Researchers studying the ingredients of a long and healthy life say that the single most important factor in determining how well a person will age – how long the individual will live and how healthy and secure those years are likely to be – is the person's educational path. In the new world economy, those without an education and an ability to understand and adapt to change will be left far behind. Those left behind, meanwhile, represent the population most likely to require attention from law enforcement. Every community must embrace the critical role education plays in reducing the supply of criminals and redirecting young offenders from a negative course. A sharp focus on education must permeate every aspect of our strategies to prevent crime and improve public safety.

Kamala Harris (2010): "Pay Attention Now or Pay the Price Later: How Reducing Elementary School Truancy Will Improve Public Safety and Save Public Resources", January 2010.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20101128001153/https://sfdistrictattorney.org/pdfs/SFDA.Truancy.White.Paper.FINAL.pdf>

Throughout the Western world, the first twenty-five years of life involve a series of forks in the road. Researchers studying the ingredients of a long and healthy life say that the single most important factor in determining how well a person will age—how long the individual will live and how healthy and secure those years are likely to be—is the person's educational path. Simply put, the sooner you jump off that path, the less well you will do in life. In the new world economy, those without an education and an ability to understand and adapt to change will be left far behind. Those left behind, meanwhile, represent the population most likely to require attention from law enforcement. Not only is this population far more likely to become offenders, it is far more likely to become victims.

Every community must embrace the critical role education plays in reducing the supply of criminals and redirecting young offenders from a negative course. That is why a sharp focus on education and other special needs of young people needs to permeate every aspect of our crime prevention strategies, including how we deal with and

Kamala Harris: "Smart on Crime" (2009). Chapter 14, page 129



Parental Crime for Chronic Truancy Bill Author Copied from Kamala Harris

Senator Mark Leno (Democrat) introduced SB 1317, the "Parental Crime for Chronic Truancy" bill, which imposed fines of up to \$2,000 and/or up to one year in jail for parents whose children missed 10% of school days. The bill faced criticism for disproportionately affecting poor Latino and African-American families.¹

Mark Leno, the official author of the bill, used identical wording to that of Kamala Harris, who also supported the bill in her role as District Attorney. Both Leno's statement and the background description for the bill are largely unedited copy-and-paste reproductions of a white paper written by Harris, as the following table will demonstrate.

This white paper² was published in January 2010 to argue why parents should more easily face criminal charges when their children skipped school. The following month, in February, Mark Leno introduced the "Parental Crime for Chronic Truancy" bill.

The book already mentions another bill that she introduced through Mark Leno ("In 2008, the California State Legislature unanimously passed a bill I wrote with Assemblyman Mark Leno", page 136).

After this June 2010 hearing, Kamala lobbied for the Parental Crime bill with an article on 16 September 2010 in the press.³ On 30 September the bill was signed by the Democratic governor. There's also a video of 2010 about presenting it at the Commonwealth Club, where Kamala Harris was proud and happy of freaking all parents of her district out through sending each an official letter that warns under penalty of jail.⁴

This copying suggests that the senator was acting as her proxy in proposing the bill and likely had limited knowledge of, or interest in, the topic. Lack of full transparency about the bill's authorship may have helped preserve her career, as she was running for Attorney General in the November 2, 2010 election, which she won by less than 1% against the Republican candidate.

¹ Julianne Hing: "California Parents Could Get Jail Time if Kids Miss School". 5 October 2010. <https://colorlines.com/article/california-parents-could-get-jail-time-if-kids-miss-school>

² <https://web.archive.org/web/20101128001153/https://sfdistrictattorney.org/pdfs/SFDA.Truancy.White.Paper.FINAL.pdf>

³ <https://www.mercurynews.com/2010/09/16/opinion-state-should-follow-san-francisco-example-on-truancy-prevention>

⁴ <https://x.com/WalkerBragman/status/1089831581030797312>



1) Author's Statement : According to the author of this bill,
"When it comes to breaking the cycle of crime, we can either pay attention to the signs of trouble now, or we can pay the price later. We pay that price in more ways than one. Elementary school children who fail to attend school today become tomorrow's high school dropouts. Dropouts are those most likely to end up in the streets as either victims or perpetrators of crime. . . . Combating elementary school truancy is a smart approach to crime prevention."

"The statistics speak volumes. Habitual truants become high school truants, and it is estimated that as many as 75% of all truant high school students will eventually drop out of school. Statewide, three-fourths of prison inmates are high school dropouts. In San Francisco, over 94% of all homicide victims under the age of 25 are high school dropouts."

"In 2007, the National Center for Children in Poverty issued a study finding that children who miss 10% or more of the days

The answer is simple: when it comes to breaking the cycle of crime, we can either pay attention to the signs of trouble now, or we can pay the price later. We pay that price in more ways than one. Elementary school children who fail to attend school today become tomorrow's high school dropouts. Dropouts are those most likely to end up in the streets as either victims or perpetrators of crime. Cities, counties, and the state must spend millions to police our streets, prosecute criminals and send them to prison. If we are serious about changing the factors that lead to bloated prisons and depleted budgets, we need to get serious about getting our young children in school. Combating elementary school truancy is a smart approach to crime prevention.

The statistics speak volumes. Habitual truants become high school truants, and it is estimated that as many as 75 percent of all truant high school students will eventually drop out of school.¹ Statewide, three-fourths of prison inmates are high school dropouts.² In San Francisco, over 94 percent of all homicide victims under the age of 25 are high school dropouts. [...]

In 2007, the National Center for Children in Poverty issued a study finding that children who miss 10 percent or more of the days in a given school year are the most likely to suffer lower academic performance in subsequent school years.⁹ That means missing [...] out. Numerous studies demonstrate a strong correlation between teenage truancy and juvenile delinquency. The California Department of Education identified truancy as the most powerful predictor of juvenile delinquent behavior.¹² The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reported that truancy correlates with substance abuse, gang involvement, and other criminal activity.¹³ A report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids concluded that increasing graduation rates by 10 percentage points would decrease rates of violent crime by 20 percent, and prevent 500 murders and more than 20,000 aggravated assaults each year in California.¹⁴ Similarly, Sacramento Police Chief Rick [...]

[...]



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"County prosecutors have relied on Penal Code Section 272, 'contributing to the delinquency of a minor' to seek stronger sanctions against parents of repeatedly truant children. Although Penal Code Section 272 does not specifically address truancy, courts have found parents guilty of this misdemeanor if their failure to get their child in school results in delinquent juvenile behavior. Under this statute, parents can be fined up to \$2,500 or placed in jail for six months.

"Unfortunately, however, neither the Education Code nor the Penal Code effectively addresses the most serious problem that needs the most immediate attention: chronic elementary school truancy.

(And much more)

California State Legislature. (2010, June 22). Assembly Committee on Public Safety analysis of SB 1317 (Leno) as amended June 16, 2010. California State Senate. http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb_1301-1350/sb_1317_cfa_20100621_101253_asm_comm.html

Currently, county prosecutors must rely on Penal Code section 272, "contributing to the delinquency of a minor," to seek stronger sanctions against parents of chronically truant children. Although section 272 does not specifically address truancy, courts have found parents guilty of this misdemeanor if their failure to get their child in school results in delinquent juvenile behavior. Under this statute, parents can be fined up to \$2,500 or placed in jail for 6 months.

Unfortunately, however, neither the Education Code nor the Penal Code effectively addresses chronic elementary school truancy, the most serious problem that needs the most immediate attention.

Kamala Harris (2010): "Pay Attention Now or Pay the Price Later: How Reducing Elementary School Truancy Will Improve Public Safety and Save Public Resources", January 2010.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20101128001153/https://sfdistrictattorney.org/pdfs/SFDA.Truancy.White.Paper.FINAL.pdf>



Summary of Findings

Plagiarism in the book “Smart on Crime” by Kamala Harris (2009)

- Kamala Harris copied virtually an entire *Wikipedia* article into her book without providing any attribution to *Wikipedia*.
- Kamala Harris fabricated a source reference, inventing a nonexistent page number.
- The self-promotional content from Goodwill Industries was copied verbatim without citing the source (Goodwill Industries was her “primary partner” on in the “Back on Track” program).
- In many other instances, even when a source was cited with a footnote, the text was directly copied and pasted without using quotation marks. Quotation marks would have been the most transparent and honest approach, also in non-academic books.

Further signs of dishonesty may be evident when sources were copied but specific details were altered, such as replacing a Subway store owner with a sandwich shop clerk (p. 124) or highlighting Southeast Asia in the context of the US gang problem (p. 184).



Less related or less severe findings

- In an interview with CBS, large portions of Kamala Harris' book were reproduced verbatim, suggesting that the interview was scripted and that she relied on the preface and introduction of the book to provide her responses.
(Some observers say this is rather common in the US.)
- Kamala Harris and Kimberly Marteau Emerson fabricated an interview about the book, with most sentences copied verbatim from the CBS News interview. The headline, “[...] Harris Talks to Kimberly Marteau [...],” falsely gives the impression of a live conversation.

Half a year after the “fake interview”, Kimberly's husband had his career breakthrough when President Obama appointed him to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations, and later as the U.S. Ambassador to Germany. Both Kimberly and her husband assist in the Harris campaign and are also on an open letter to endorse Kamala Harris

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20240724044248/https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/07/23/kamala-harris-foreign-policy-endorsement>).

- Kamala Harris as DA influenced senator Mark Leno to criminalize parents when their children missed 10% of their classes, criticized for creating problems for mostly Latinos and African Americans. Mark Leno gave a statement with big chunks copied from a white paper of Kamala Harris.