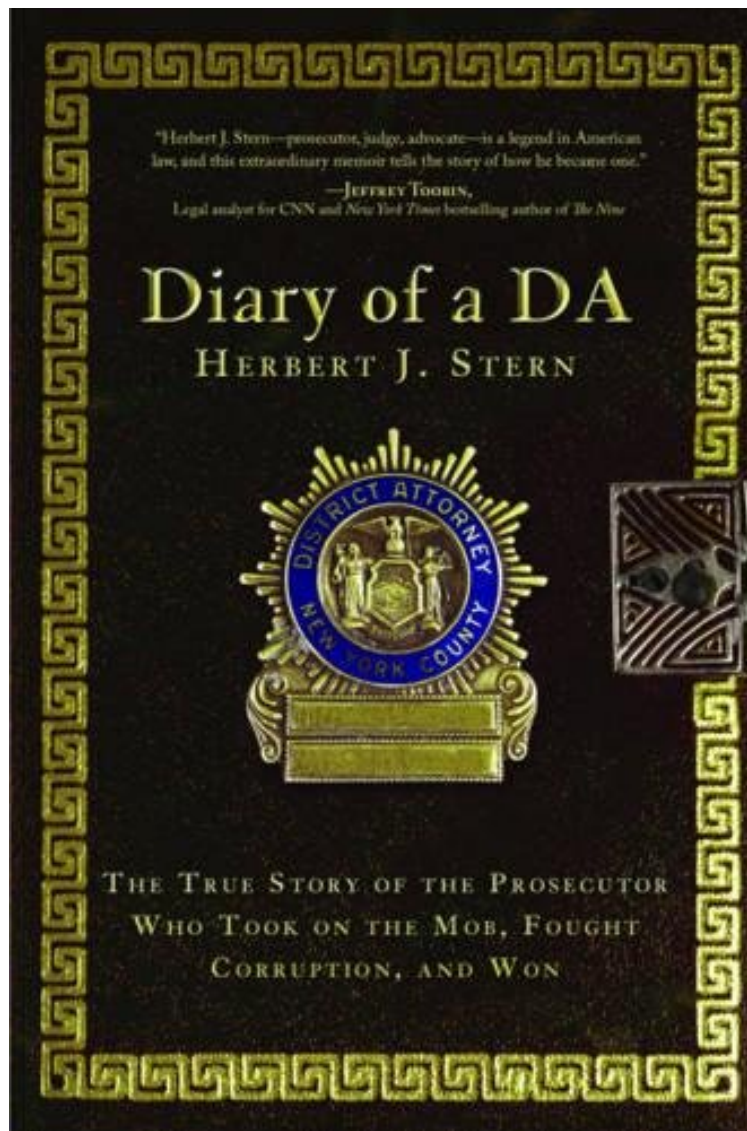


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## Diary of a DA: The True Story of the Prosecutor Who Took on the Mob, Fought Corruption, and Won

*Herbert J. Stern*

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**Herbert J. Stern : Diary of a DA: The True Story of the Prosecutor Who Took on the Mob, Fought Corruption, and Won** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Diary of a DA: The True Story of the Prosecutor Who Took on the Mob, Fought Corruption, and Won:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. FASCINATINGBy ROBERT H BLUMBERGI'd very much

enjoyed Stern's remarkable account of the trial of the East Berlin skyjackers in *Judgment in Berlin* and had looked forward to reading this memoir, which recounts his experiences in the NY DA's office, then the excitement and difficulty of fighting corruption as the US attorney in New Jersey during the 60's and 70's when everyone's hand was in the till. Stern's prose is clear, precise and informative. It makes for an exciting and quick read not only for attorneys, but for those who are unfamiliar with the legal world. Learn how investigations, indictments, grand juries, trial preparation and the trials and appeals work from the inside as told by a professional deeply involved in investigating and uprooting the political corruption and mafia criminality that was the daily diet of NJ citizens for 60 years. Also learn about the nasty problems caused by bureaucrats within state and federal offices and by state and federal officials protecting their turf, degrading law enforcement along the way. You will be shocked about the revelations of infamy and deceit at the highest levels of our government. It is also a story of the steadfast dedication of one prosecutor and his team representing the people of the United States in protecting them from the evils of corrupt politicians, low-life mob and complicit corporations. Although this book recounts Stern's experiences in the 1960's and 1970's, ending when he is elevated to the federal judiciary, the opinions he expresses about the way our legal system deals with gambling, free speech, obscenity, drugs and capital punishment is as relevant today as ever. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting career By frank corsi Quick read. Good to put the time period in perspective and get an insiders take on the prosecution of political graft and the mob in New Jersey. Fills in a much better understanding of Political kingdoms in NJ. The sad part is you start to understand how corrupt NJ was and still is. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I highly recommend it to anyone considering a career in criminal law By John J Burke I ordered this book before starting a job as an Assistant District Attorney in Massachusetts, and I am thoroughly enjoying this book. I highly recommend it to anyone considering a career in criminal law.

In 1961, twenty-five-year-old Herbert Jay Stern, fresh from reserve duty, stood in his green army uniform in a New York County courtroom to be sworn in as an attorney. He could only guess what his life as a prosecuting lawyer would be. A dozen years later, in the wake of the national scandal of Watergate, Stern, draped in black robes now, would take the oath of office as a federal judge. In the years between, the idealistic young Stern would sharpen his skills in the realities of the criminal courts of New York City, to emerge as the lead trial attorney for the Justice Department, charged with breaking the back of organized crime in New Jersey. Stern's highly charged account of his outright war against powerful state government officials and the mafia takes us deep inside the mechanisms of law and order during a time when assassinations came fast and loose, cities were burning in race riots, and racketeering and graft were so prevalent in the Garden State that its own senator called it a stench in the nostrils and an offense to the vision of the world. Before Stern and his equally dedicated colleagues on the strike force out of Washington, D.C., are finished, they will have successfully prosecuted the mayors of Jersey City, Newark, and Atlantic City for being on the take; a congressman for conspiracy, tax violations, and perjury; and blackened the eye of organized crime.

Stern draws a sharp distinction between "doing law and doing justice" packed into [the book] are triumphs that explode from the page like firecrackers, chronicling one of the great law enforcement records of the past half-century. (Fortune) Extremely well written, Stern's account of his personal and professional quest to uphold the law and justice is finely realized and quite impressive. (Publishers Weekly) Stern is a fascinated observer, thoroughly honest in both his job and his writing about it.... It details the gritty realities of a prosecutor's office that few people witness. (Philadelphia Inquirer) An honest examination of how the justice system really works in the minor criminal courts of New York City. . . . more than a page-turner of a true crime story. (The Star-Ledger) A rare look inside the world of the federal prosecutor.... Diary of a DA is for any fan of the loosely, fictional Sopranos and Boardwalk Empire television shows. (Tribune Observer) About the Author Herbert J. Stern is considered one of the most famous district attorneys in the history of the United States. He helped catch the killers of Malcolm X, indicted the head of the French CIA for shipping 100 pounds of heroin into the United States, prosecuted the real-life Tony Soprano, and convicted the mayors of Newark, Jersey City, and Atlantic City.