



Writings by CJPF President, Eric E. Sterling

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Newspaper Columns and Op-Eds

Sterling, E. E. (2006, June 24). [Undo This Legacy of Len Bias's Death](#). *The Washington Post*. Sterling reflects on the death of Len Bias and the creation of new mandatory minimums created after Bias's death. These mandatory minimums have increased the prison population by 527 percent and have not made any progress in lowering drug use. This article was also printed in the [Hartford Courant](#), [Juneau Empire](#), and [The Spokesman Review](#).

Sterling, E. E. (2006, January 15). [Our Dead-End Approach to Homicide](#). *The Washington Post*. Sterling explores the factors that have led to a growing murder rate in the DC region, such as untreated mental illness, the breakdown of the family, and an inadequate juvenile justice system. Sterling suggests that more effective policing and police management could help to lower the murder rate and increase the number of solved homicide cases.

Sterling, E. E. (2005, April 3). [Mistake with drug sentencing guidelines need to be resolved](#). *Greensboro News Record*. Current federal mandatory minimum sentences are ineffective because the Justice department focuses on low-level cases. Congress needs to make the Justice department focus on major cases.

Sterling, E. E. (2001, March 25). [Stuck in a 'Traffic' jam](#). *The Orange County Register*. In the movie, "Traffic," the daughter of the drug czar (Michael Douglas), is a heroin addict. Knowing this, the drug czar, rather than unveil a "new" drug strategy of clichés, resigns. This op-ed lists 10-points for a drug strategy designed to save lives.

Sterling, E. E. (2000, December 28). [A time for Clinton judges to correct drug-term injustices](#). *San Diego Union Tribune*. With only a few days left in the Clinton administration, how can he decide which sentences of the thousands of low-level drug offenders he should commute? He could ask every federal judge to send him the name of the one or two defendants they sentenced to a very long term that they are losing sleep over. The Clinton administration sent over 100,000 drug offenders to federal prison. Almost everyone knows that in general, many of them no longer belong there. The judges can act.

Sterling, E. E. (2000, December 20). [Pardon me, please](#). *Chicago Tribune*. President Bill Clinton, leaving office in a month, ought to commute the sentences of non-violent low-level drug offenders, as urged by the 650-clergy members of the Coalition for Jubilee Clemency. Pope John Paul II recognized 2000 as a Jubilee year and urged "a gesture of clemency" to the imprisoned. (On Dec. 23, Clinton commuted the sentences of the two women identified in the article, Kemba Smith and Dorothy Gaines).

Sterling, E. E. (2000, July 3). [Uncle Sam's 'cookie' is watching you](#). *Christian Science Monitor*. Violating federal internet regulations, the White House ONDCP was placing "cookies" on the computers of citizens visiting their website. Such surveillance violates the Fourth Amendment protection against warrantless searches, threatens political speech about drug policy, and counter-productively deters concerned citizens from learning about drug treatment and education.

Sterling, E. E. (2000, April 30). [Sentencing is perverse in war on drugs](#). *Chicago Sun Times*, p.40A and (2000, May 9). [...And justice for all](#). *The Baltimore Sun*, p. 15A. U.S. Army Col. James Hiatt was allowed to plead guilty to a less-serious offense for his role in helping his wife ship 15.8 pounds of heroin from Colombia to the U.S. Usually such a case would draw mandatory minimums of 10 years or more. The arbitrary application of sentences is a "stench in every federal courthouse."

Sterling, E. E. (1999, December 6). [Legalize Drugs or Expect More Mass Graves](#). *Los Angeles Times* and (1999, December 8). [Mass graves tell the story of our failed drug policy](#). *Houston Chronicle*, pp. 45A. Violence is inevitable in the drug trade. The President's claims of success are hollow, and his desire to "work with" Mexican authorities, such as their corrupt drug czar is pointless. Regulation, licensing and taxation are needed to end the violence, and control drug use.

Sterling, E. E. (1999, September 3). [The untold drug bust](#). *Washington Times*, pp. A17. A drug bust found heroin in the food service coffee packets on a commercial airliner, along with a hand grenade. But such a headline grabbing drug bust disguises the failure of drug prohibition to keep hundreds of tons of drugs from coming into the country or away from high school kids.

Sterling, E. E. (1999, January 12). [Lying Is the American Way](#). *Los Angeles Times*. The U.S. Senate is preparing to try impeached President Clinton. Washington awaits the rumored testimony of admitted liar Monica Lewinsky to prove the President's perjury. Yet perjury is widespread in the criminal justice system as shown in the PBS Frontline broadcast, "Snitch," to run tonight.

Sterling, E. E. (1998, March 22). [One Prescription Doesn't Cure All](#). *Washington Post*, pp. C12. Fairfax County, VA school's "zero-tolerance" policy doesn't make sense. It rejects the notion that children are educated by ideas, information and reason.

Sterling, E. E. (1997, August 4). [Disparity in crack, powder cocaine sentences](#). *Chicago Tribune*, sec. 1 pp. 11. To address the glaring racial disparity in federal cocaine prosecutions, Attorney General Janet Reno and "drug czar" Barry McCaffrey propose raising the triggers for mandatory minimum sentence for crack from 5 grams to 25, and from 50 grams to 250 grams. But this is a debate about the size of minnows when the "big fish" drug importers who arrange multi-million gram shipments are getting away because the Justice department is focusing on the lowest-level offenders.

Sterling, E. E. (1995, May 22). [Drug Policy of a Failed User](#). *Legal Times: Law and Lobbying in the Nation's Capital*. Nationwide polls show the public thinks the war on drugs is a failure, and teen drug use is rising dramatically. D.A.R.E. is ineffective. The Rand Corp. points out that international organized crime needs a higher emphasis than simply interdicting drugs in the "pipeline," or low-level domestic offenders. The public health community universally endorses sterile syringe exchange to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS. Marijuana is being used medically, despite the closure of the federal program that operated without controversy under President Reagan until 1992. President Clinton is offering no leadership,

afraid that mentioning drugs always brings up his memorable "I didn't inhale" description of his youthful marijuana experiment.

Sterling, E. E. (1989, September 30). [Harm management, not drug-free nation, should become USA's anti-drug objective](#). *Law Enforcement News*. (New York, NY). The national mantra of a "drug-free America" is immeasurable - it is not a goal. The many harms connected with drug use and drug trafficking can be measured and can be reduced if we focus on them, and end our obsession with slogans and "sending messages. A look at Dr. William Bennett's 5-point strategy shows that it is doomed to fail. We need to think about managing the problem.

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Book Chapters

Sterling, E. E. (2004). [The War on Drugs Distracts from the War on Terror](#). *Opposing Viewpoints: The War on Drugs*. (pp. 97-100). New York: Thompson Gale. Originally published as [Connect the Dots: You Don't Have to be an FBI Analyst to See the Picture](#).

Sterling, E. E. (2004). [Drug Policy: A Challenge of values](#). *Criminal Justice: Retribution vs. Restoration*. New York: Haworth Press.

Sterling, E. E. (2004). [A Businessperson's Guide to the Drug Problem](#). *The New Prohibition* (pp. 69-84). Lonedell, Missouri: Accurate Press.

Sterling, E. E. (2004, October). [Tales of a Recovering Drug Warrior](#). *Under the Influence* (pp. 80-94).

Sterling, E. E. (1997). [Law Enforcement Against Entheogens: Is It Religious Persecution](#). *Entheogens and the Future of Religion* (pp. 165-170). San Francisco, California: Council on Spiritual Practices.

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Magazine and Journal Articles

Sterling, E. E. (2000). [Friendly Fire](#). *Haverford Alumni Magazine*, pp. 1-8.

Sterling, E. E. (2001, May). [U.S. Drug Policy: Failure at Home](#). *Foreign Policy in Focus*, 6(16).

Sterling, E. E. (1995, January). [A Roadmap to the Crime Bill](#). *Public Management*, 77(1), 6-16.

Sterling, E. E. (1995, November 2). [The Sentencing Boomerang: Drug Prohibition Politics and Reform](#). *Villanova Law Review*, 40(2), 383-427.

Sterling, E. E. (1993, November). [A Crime Prevention Vision](#). *Christian Social Action*, pp. 4-6.

Sterling, E. E. (1991, July). [Trashing the Bill of Rights](#). *The Progressive*, pp. 34- 38. Describes how each of the first ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, is being undermined by the war on drugs.

[Drug Legalization: Now or Never?](#). (1990, May). *The World And I*, 108 - 119. This is a debate between Edwin Meese, former U.S. attorney general; Reggie Walton, deputy director of ONDCP; David Boaz, senior fellow at the Cato Institute; and Eric E. Sterling of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation.

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Speeches and Testimony

Sterling, E. E. (2005, October 21). [The Camden Experience](#). Prepared for "Illicit Drugs - Burden & Policy" in Hartford, Connecticut.

Sterling, E. E. (1995, May 15). Opening a Discussion About Effective Anti-Drug Strategies. Prepared for "American Cities Against Drugs" in Atlanta, Georgia.

Sterling, E. E. (1995, October 27). Music and Politics. Prepared for the Philadelphia Music Conference.

Sterling, E. E. (1994, June 7). What Should We Do About Drugs? Strategies For Managing The Drug Problem. Prepared for the Delaware Council on Crime and Justice.

Sterling, E. E. (1994, July 14). Testimony of Eric E. Sterling, J.D. President, The Criminal Justice Policy Foundation Before the Committee on the Judiciary Council of the District of Columbia on the Resolution for a Federal Commission of Drug Policy of 1994.

Sterling, E. E. (1994, September 13). Local Government Programs in the Crime Bill. Prepared for the annual meeting of the International City/County Management Association.

Sterling, E. E. (1993, March 22). Testimony of Eric Sterling, President of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation Before the United States Sentencing Commission on Proposed Guideline Amendments for Public Comment.

Sterling, E. E. (1991, August 1). What Should We Do About Drugs?. *Vital Speeches Of The Day*, 57(20).

Sterling, E. E. (1991, November 9). Perspectives of the Narcotics Epidemic and the War on Drugs. Prepared for a national teleconference on the narcotics epidemic metropolitan Washington task force.

Sterling, E. E. (1990, November 1). The Bill of Rights. *Vital Speeches Of The Day*, 57(2).

Sterling, E. E. (1989, November 2). A Model for a Regulated Market in Drugs: Advantages and Drawbacks. Prepared for The Third International Conference on Drug Policy Reform.

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CJPF Statements

Sterling, E. E. (1999, April 15). Racially Disproportionate Outcomes in Processing Drug Cases.

Sterling, E. E. (1999, July 29). Statement of Eric Sterling on Behalf of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation to the Subcommittee on Crime Committee on the Judiciary U.S. House of Representatives on D.E.A. Oversight.

Sterling, E. E. (1999, October 21). Drug Policy and the Friends Committee on National Legislation's 1994 Statement of Legislative Policy.

Sterling, E. E. (1995, March). The Foundation of a Modern Drug Strategy: Twelve Principles for Managing the Drug Problem.

Sterling, E. E. (1995, October 27). Hemp Activism - A Short Manual for Lobbying.

Sterling, E. E. (1992, March 13). Some Conditions for Effective National Anti-Drug Abuse and Anti-Drug Related Crime Strategies.

Sterling, E. E. (1992, February 26). Looking for a way out of the narcotics trap? Get a new "road map".

Sterling, E. E. The Sentencing Controversy: Punishment and Policy in the War on Drugs.

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Letters to the Editor

Sterling, E. E. (2006, June 25). [West Hollywood Adopts Sane Policy On Pot](#). *Los Angeles Times*.

Sterling, E. E. (2006, June 14). [Better policing through better management](#). *Gazette.Net*.

Sterling, E. E. (2005, June 7). [Retail Alone Won't Help Prince George's](#). *Washington Post*.

Sterling, E. E. (2004, July 18). [Outrageous Drug Sentencing](#). *Washington Post*.

Sterling, E. E. (1997, January 10). [The War is Over - If You Want It](#). *City Paper*, pp. 14. Commenting favorably on Paul Ruffins' strategy to fight crime in D.C. (Jan. 3, 1992), we need to understand the results of drug prohibition: an all-cash business protected by violence and threats thereof among the largest of non-government industries in D.C. Sweeping enforcement is alienating the city's youth, not helping the addicts (who are those who are supposed to be helped), and compounding the crisis in medical care.

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