

# BRIDGING THE THIN BLUE LINE: HOW COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS CAN SUPPORT THE POLICE

Lesson 2 - How Progressive Prosecutors and Bail Reform Undermine Justice



NATIONALPOLICE.ORG

# Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

Bridging the Thin Blue Line: How Communities and Individuals Can Support the Police

Lesson 2 - How Progressive Prosecutors and Bail Reform Undermine Justice

The rise of progressive prosecutors, supported by figures like George Soros, has marked a significant change in the United States' criminal justice landscape. This lesson delves into the dangers and detrimental effects of this movement on law enforcement and the safety of law-abiding citizens.

Billionaire philanthropist George Soros's support for progressive prosecutors has emboldened a new approach to criminal justice, emphasizing social reform and rehabilitation over punishment. These ideologies threaten the very foundations of the criminal justice system.

Progressive prosecutors advocate for a reduction in mandatory sentencing, a direct assault on law enforcement's ability to carry out justice. This soft stance can allow dangerous criminals to reenter society prematurely, putting law-abiding citizens at risk.

The push for the decriminalization of certain offenses is a fundamental weakening of the law. This approach invites lawlessness, hindering police from maintaining public order.

Progressive prosecutors' ideologies shift focus from holding offenders accountable to prioritizing rehabilitation. This jeopardizes public safety, allowing criminals to escape just punishment and endangers communities.

The selective enforcement of laws advocated by progressive prosecutors erodes trust in the judicial system. This selective approach undermines the rule of law, creating perceptions of bias and inconsistency.

The influence of progressive prosecutors contributes to an alarming alteration of legal norms. These changes diminish the importance of upholding the law in favor of social change, thereby undermining the justice system's integrity.

## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

The focus on rehabilitation rather than retribution leads to the neglect of victims' rights. The victims of crime are overshadowed and denied justice in a system that seems more concerned with the rights of the accused.

### The funding of progressive prosecutors

George Soros, a billionaire philanthropist, is one of the key figures behind the funding of progressive prosecutors in the United States. Through various organizations and political action committees, he has poured millions of dollars into local district attorney races across the nation. While he portrays this as an effort to bring about criminal justice reform, it is a clear attempt to alter the very fabric of our judicial system in a way that is unfavorable to law enforcement.

Progressive prosecutors often advocate for reduced sentences, the abolition of cash bail, and the decriminalization of certain offenses, all of which are misguided and harmful to society. They prioritize rehabilitation over punishment, seemingly without a full understanding of the potential consequences.

The leniency that progressive prosecutors are pushing for can have a detrimental effect on our communities. By promoting policies that may lead to the early release of criminals, they are endangering the very people they were elected to protect. Moreover, these policies are often implemented without regard to the voices and wishes of law enforcement professionals, the very individuals tasked with maintaining law and order.

These prosecutors argue that their policies will result in a more fair and equitable justice system. However, they are undermining the rule of law by selectively enforcing statutes and ignoring others. By deciding which laws to enforce, they are effectively legislating from the prosecutor's office, a clear overreach of their mandate and an affront to the separation of powers in our government.

## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

Additionally, the vast sums of money flowing into these local elections from Soros and like-minded individuals seem to be an effort to influence local policies in ways that align with their own personal ideologies. The influx of outside money has the potential to skew the democratic process, drowning out the voices of local residents who should have the primary say in choosing their district attorneys.

The funding of progressive prosecutors by George Soros and others is a phenomenon that should be taken seriously and viewed with skepticism. Their policies are misguided and can lead to a breakdown in law and order. We must remember that justice should be blind, impartial, and focused on the safety and well-being of our communities, not swayed by the ideologies and financial interests of a few wealthy individuals. If we allow this trend to continue, we may well witness the erosion of the very principles that underpin our legal system.

### The Misguided Philosophy of Criminal Justice Reform

In recent years, the nation has seen a surge in progressive prosecutors advocating for criminal justice reform. These reforms have taken various forms, from the decriminalization of minor offenses to an insistence on rehabilitation over punishment.

To begin with, the philosophy that underlies much of criminal justice reform rests on a flawed understanding of human nature and society. It assumes that most criminals are victims of circumstance and that leniency will lead to rehabilitation and reduced recidivism. This optimism fails to acknowledge the very real need for deterrence in our justice system.

One of the central tenets of criminal justice reform is the move towards less stringent sentencing, particularly for non-violent offenders. While this may sound compassionate, it often leads to the early release of criminals who may still pose a threat to society. Progressive prosecutors may argue that these individuals can be reformed through community programs, but there is no guarantee that these initiatives will be successful.

## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

The insistence on rehabilitation over punishment overlooks the importance of holding individuals accountable for their actions. It sends a message that law-breaking has minimal consequences, undermining the very rule of law that our society is built upon. By ignoring the rights of victims and placing the focus on the offenders, we are eroding the moral fabric of our community.

Moreover, the call for police reform, particularly the push to defund the police, leaves law enforcement agencies crippled in their ability to protect citizens. Reduced funding means fewer resources for training, equipment, and personnel. How can we expect our officers to perform their duties effectively when they are constantly under-resourced and under-supported? The result is a less effective police force that is unable to respond adequately to crime, leaving law-abiding citizens more vulnerable.

Furthermore, progressive prosecutors often prioritize political ideology over the safety of the community. By refusing to prosecute certain crimes and undermining the authority of law enforcement, they create a culture of permissiveness that emboldens criminals. The reluctance to fully prosecute crimes such as theft, assault, or drug offenses sends a signal that these behaviors are tolerated. This has the potential to lead to an increase in crime, threatening the safety and well-being of everyday citizens.

The misguided philosophy of criminal justice reform, as championed by progressive prosecutors, poses serious dangers to law-abiding citizens. By prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment, relaxing sentencing, undermining the authority of law enforcement, and ignoring the rights of victims, these reforms threaten the very foundation of our society. We must remember that the primary purpose of the criminal justice system is to protect the innocent and punish the guilty. Any deviation from this principle, no matter how well-intentioned, risks the safety and stability of our communities. Therefore, we must approach criminal justice reform with caution, ensuring that the rights and safety of law-abiding citizens are never compromised.

Victims' Rights

## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

In recent years, progressive prosecutors have become prominent figures in many cities across the United States. They have campaigned on platforms that emphasize restorative justice, alternatives to incarceration, and tackling systemic inequality. The implementation of these policies has left the rights of victims in jeopardy. It is imperative to shed light on the specific harms occurring in this flawed, movement.

### Dismissal of Minor Offenses

One striking feature of the progressive prosecutorial approach is the dismissal of minor offenses, such as shoplifting or petty theft. The ramifications on victims are often overlooked.

Consider the shop owner who has repeatedly fallen victim to theft. Each stolen item might be deemed minor in the eyes of the law, but to the shop owner, these losses accumulate and become a significant burden. The dismissal of such offenses sends a troubling message that their struggles are not worthy of legal protection. It also potentially emboldens criminals, knowing that they are unlikely to be prosecuted for what are viewed as inconsequential crimes.

### Focus on Rehabilitation Over Punishment

Rehabilitation must not overshadow the need for accountability. In some cases, progressive prosecutors have opted for counseling or probation in situations where traditional prosecution would seek more punitive measures.

In the horrifying realm of domestic violence, this approach can be particularly damaging. By prioritizing the rehabilitation of offenders over the safety and justice needs of victims, we can create an environment where victims feel unprotected. The fear of their assailants returning, emboldened by lenient treatment, can result in a chilling effect on reporting, perpetuating a cycle of abuse.

### Lenient Plea Bargains

## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

The push to reduce prison populations, has led to a surge in plea bargains that often do not adequately represent the severity of the crime. These deals can leave victims feeling betrayed and disillusioned with the justice system.

Imagine a family that has lost a loved one to a violent crime, only to watch as the offender receives a reduced sentence through a plea deal. The grief and sense of injustice can be overwhelming, leading to a deep mistrust of the legal system.

### Strained Relationship with Law Enforcement

The relationship between progressive prosecutors and law enforcement has sometimes been strained, marked by disagreements over policies and practices. This divide can slow down investigations, hinder communication, and lead to less effective prosecutions.

For victims, this breakdown in collaboration between key parts of the justice system can result in delayed justice or even failed prosecutions. The frustration and disappointment of seeing justice slip through their fingers can be profoundly distressing.

The movement must recognize that justice isn't solely about the offender; it's also about the victims. Whether it's the dismissal of seemingly minor crimes, a focus on rehabilitation that overshadows punishment, lenient plea deals, or the lack of collaboration with law enforcement, the progressive prosecutorial approach has harmed the very people the justice system is meant to protect.

It's time to reassess and realign these policies to ensure that victims' rights are not ignored. Victims deserve to be heard, protected, and valued. Their rights must be at the forefront of any reform, as justice should be not just for the offender but also for those they have harmed.

## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

The criminal justice system is the bedrock upon which our society's safety rests. Its core principles of justice, fairness, and protection are currently being undermined by alarming reforms, including the elimination of pretrial detention and incarceration. The dangers posed by these misguided changes are palpable and significant, affecting our communities at every level.

### 1. Pretrial Detention: A Necessary Safeguard

Pretrial detention serves a critical function in our legal system. It ensures that those who are charged with serious crimes, especially violent ones, do not pose a risk to society before trial. However, recent reforms have sought to dismantle this practice.

#### A. New York's Troubling Experiment

In New York City, the 2020 bail reform laws resulted in a drastic increase in pretrial releases. The consequences have been severe.

**The Tiffany Harris Case:** Harris was arrested for assaulting three Jewish women but was released without bail. She was arrested again the next day for another assault, highlighting the danger of allowing repeat offenders back onto the streets.

**The Jordan Randolph Tragedy:** Randolph's case is a chilling example of the fallout from these reforms. Released without bail after an arrest for attempted murder, he was later charged with killing a young man.

#### B. California's Struggles

Similar to New York, California has felt the weight of misguided reforms, with some communities experiencing spikes in crime.



## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

Thefts and Burglaries: Cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco have witnessed an upswing in property crimes following changes in pretrial detention policies.

### 2. The Risk of Reducing Incarceration: A Breach of Justice

Incarceration, though controversial in some circles, is a vital aspect of the criminal justice system. A push towards leniency has led to dangerous consequences.

#### A. Washington State's Software Error

In 2015, Washington State mistakenly released up to 3,000 prisoners early due to a software glitch.

Murders Committed by Released Inmates: Two former inmates were charged with murders committed after they were mistakenly released early, illustrating the dangers of premature release.

#### B. California's Proposition 47

Proposition 47, which reduced penalties for some crimes, has had long-reaching effects.

Increased Theft and Property Crimes: San Francisco has experienced a considerable rise in theft and property crimes, creating a sense of insecurity within local communities.

### 3. The Impact on Law Enforcement: Overworked and Under-supported

These changes place undue strain on law enforcement agencies.

#### A. Chicago's Resource Crisis

In Chicago, monitoring released individuals has required the reallocation of resources, impacting regular patrols and community engagement.

## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

### B. Baltimore's Diverted Focus

Baltimore's police department was forced to create a special task force to track released criminals, stretching an already overburdened force even thinner.

### 4. The Forgotten Victims: Living in Fear and Uncertainty

One of the most heart-wrenching consequences of these reforms is the effect on victims.

#### A. Stalking Cases in Colorado

Colorado's victims of stalking live in terror as stalkers are released without bail, free to continue their harassment.

#### B. Nationwide Domestic Violence Concerns

Across the country, countless victims of domestic violence find themselves living in constant fear, knowing that their abusers are back on the streets without proper oversight.

### 5. The Effects on Community Trust and Safety: An Erosion of Confidence

These alarming trends are not just statistical abstractions; they translate into a very real erosion of trust and safety within our communities.

**Decreased Faith in the Justice System:** The failure to hold accused criminals accountable undermines public confidence in the justice system.

**Increased Fear Among Citizens:** The knowledge that potentially dangerous individuals are released back into communities instills fear and anxiety among law-abiding citizens.

## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

### Conclusion: A Call for Reflection and Action

The elimination of pretrial detention and the reduction in incarceration are not simply policy changes; they represent a seismic shift in our approach to justice and safety. The evidence is clear, and the human toll is palpable.

From the heart-wrenching stories of victims living in terror to the very real increases in crime and the burden placed on our brave law enforcement officers, the consequences of these reforms are profound and far-reaching.

Pretrial detention has been a cornerstone of the criminal justice system for centuries. By eliminating it, we rob law enforcement agencies of a significant tool in their efforts to maintain peace and safety. One cannot deny the deterrent effect of pretrial detention. It sends a clear message that unlawful behavior carries immediate consequences, and removing this deterrent creates a perception of leniency that emboldens potential criminals and increases the likelihood of reoffending before trial.

This leniency can also have a profoundly negative impact on victims of crime. When offenders are not held in pretrial detention, they have the potential to further harass or intimidate their victims, hampering investigations and reducing victims' willingness to cooperate with law enforcement. Without pretrial detention, law enforcement agencies are significantly limited in their ability to protect the innocent and vulnerable in society.

With the elimination of pretrial detention, the burden of tracking and managing individuals accused of crimes also increases exponentially for law enforcement agencies. They are expected to monitor accused individuals who, now out on the streets, may pose a risk to public safety. This task is not only impractical but also diverts resources from other crucial duties such as crime prevention and community service. Law enforcement agencies do not have the staffing to handle such responsibilities, and this misuse of their resources results in inefficiency and potential compromise of public safety.

## Bridging the Thin Blue Line Lesson 2

Furthermore, the likelihood of accused individuals failing to appear in court after being released pretrial is a significant problem that can't be overlooked. When individuals don't show up for their court dates, warrants are issued, leading to more work for already overburdened law enforcement agencies. Ultimately, this adds unnecessary strain to the criminal justice system and contributes to the erosion of the rule of law.

Additionally, the elimination of pretrial detention and incarceration dismisses the reality of recidivism. Even though a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty, there's a segment of accused individuals who have a history of criminal behavior and a high likelihood of reoffending. By letting these people roam freely, we are risking public safety and essentially handcuffing law enforcement agencies in their efforts to keep communities safe.

Finally, these reforms pose a significant threat to the morale and motivation of law enforcement officers. When law enforcement sees accused criminals immediately back on the streets due to the elimination of pretrial detention, it creates a sense of futility in their efforts to maintain law and order. Officers may begin to question the purpose and impact of their work, leading to decreased job satisfaction, productivity, and possibly contributing to higher attrition rates.

It is essential to recognize the damaging impact the de-incarceration movement can have on law enforcement agencies. It reduces their ability to keep communities safe, puts an unnecessary burden on their resources, and demoralizes officers, compromising public safety or the effectiveness of our law enforcement agencies.

We must act with urgency and conviction to restore the integrity of a system designed to protect, not endanger. The stakes have never been higher, and the call for action has never been more urgent.

For the sake of our communities, our faith in the rule of law, and the very principles upon which our society is built, we must reassess and reverse these dangerous trends. It is a matter of justice, a matter of safety, and above all, a matter of our shared responsibility to each other and to future generations.

# BRIDGING THE THIN BLUE LINE

Each lesson delves into the respective topics, providing real-world examples, practical advice, and guidance for communities and individuals who wish to support their local police. The aim is to foster a better understanding and relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve.