

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

STATE LEGISLATORS SHOULD:

- End the drug war by regulating narcotics in the same way that liquor is controlled;
- Restrict drug sales to minors and arrest only those who pose a danger to others, such as those driving under the influence;
- Abolish plea bargaining, a procedure that prosecutors often use to coerce guilty pleas from the innocent and too often results in unwarranted leniency for violent offenders;
- Reform the indigent criminal defense system by establishing vouchers that would empower poor people to choose their own attorneys;
- Stop the militarization of police tactics by keeping SWAT units away from routine policing;
- Rescind asset forfeiture policies that let police departments keep the assets they seize in raids;
- Justly compensate innocent people who were wrongfully prosecuted and imprisoned.

CATO RESOURCES:

- [“The Budgetary Impact of Ending Drug Prohibition,”](#) by Jeffrey A. Miron and Katherine Waldock, White Paper (September 27, 2010) 457
- [“Reforming Indigent Defense: How Free Market Principles Can Help to Fix a Broken System,”](#) by Stephen J. Schulhofer and David Friedman, Policy Analysis 666 (September 1, 2010) 515
- [“Drug Decriminalization in Portugal: Lessons for Creating Fair and Successful Drug Policies,”](#) by Glenn Greenwald, White Paper (April 2, 2009) 538
- [“The War on Drugs,”](#) by David Boaz and Timothy Lynch, Chapter 33 of the *Cato Handbook for Policymakers*, 7th ed. (2009) 570
- [“Overkill: The Rise of Paramilitary Police Raids in America,”](#) by Radley Balko, White Paper (July 17, 2006) 579
- [In the Name of Justice: Leading Experts Reexamine the Classic Article “The Aims of the Criminal Law”](#), edited by Timothy Lynch (2009) 679
- [Forfeiting Our Property Rights: Is Your Property Safe from Seizure?](#) by Rep. Henry J. Hyde (1995) 681

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