

# TRYING TIMES



A Lawyer's 50-Year Struggle  
Fighting for Rights in a World of Wrongs

**TERRY  
GILBERT**  
with CARLO WOLFF

## Book Summary

**Terry Gilbert**  
is a people's lawyer.

His story begins in the late 1960s. During an era marked by deeply unsettling events at Attica, Kent State and Wounded Knee, Gilbert began weaponizing the legal system in the fight for justice and equality. After nearly 50 years, he continues the fight: for civil rights, prison reform, police accountability, free speech and protection of core American values enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

Gilbert defends the rights of indigenous Americans and others disenfranchised and excluded from fair pursuit of the American dream. In the 1990s he successfully reopened the case against Dr. Sam Sheppard in his struggle to clear Sheppard's name and hold the justice system accountable. In 2014, Gilbert won broad acclaim with the exoneration of Kwame Ajamu, a man who served 27 years in prison after a wrongful conviction, as well as for representing Ajamu's brother Wiley Bridgeman.

Gilbert's core belief: the law is a powerful tool to fight injustice and support America's highest ideals. Activism and diligence, he says, are the values certain to guide our country through these trying times.

## Author Bios

**Terry Gilbert** has been in private law practice since 1973, focusing on criminal defense and civil rights litigation. At the start of his legal career, Gilbert represented American Indians in the aftermath of the Wounded Knee confrontation in South Dakota, and numerous anti-war and civil rights activists. Over the years, Gilbert has handled a variety of government misconduct cases involving police abuse, wrongful conviction, violations of free speech, prisoners' rights, and victims of all forms of discrimination. His defense of civil liberties has often put him at odds with authorities and made him the target of op-eds and editorial cartoonists. At the same time, he has written many op-eds himself, and used the media to make his case for justice directly to the people. Gilbert lives with his wife Robin in a Cleveland suburb, and has two adult children: Benjamin, a molecular biologist, and Julian, a law student.



Terry Gilbert (left) and Carlo Wolff

**Carlo Wolff** writes about popular culture, music, books, hospitality and travel. A contributor to the jazz magazine, *DownBeat*, he is the author of *Cleveland Rock & Roll Memories*, lead author of *Mike Belkin: Socks, Sports, Rock and Art*, and co-writer of *Designing Victory* and *The Encyclopedia of Record Producers*. Wolff also reports and edits for newspapers and magazines. A native of Dallas, Wolff grew up in Columbus, Ohio and attended schools in the Boston area. He moved to Cleveland in 1986. Wolff lives in suburban Cleveland with his wife Karen Sandstrom, a dog and a cat.

## Book Information

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