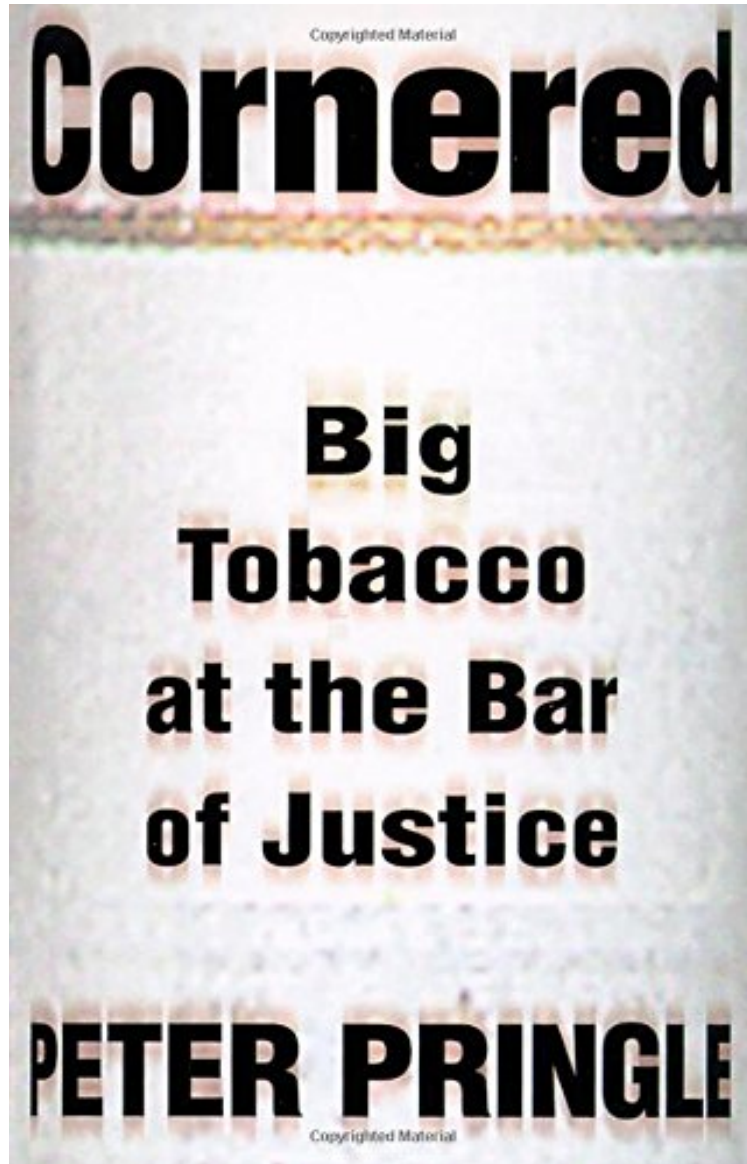


(Free) Cornered: Big Tobacco At the Bar of Justice

Cornered: Big Tobacco At the Bar of Justice

Peter Pringle

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Peter Pringle : Cornered: Big Tobacco At the Bar of Justice before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cornered: Big Tobacco At the Bar of Justice:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Story about Modern Day Gunslingers By John G. Griffin Interesting read about how a diverse group of attorneys took their diverse viewpoints and their greed to forge an alliance which brought Big Tobacco to the table. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good background -

but limited to Mississippi Lawsuit By A Customer This book was obviously well researched, and contains an excellent summary of the litigation history basically starting with the initial leaked Merrill documents through the Mississippi settlement. There is also some coverage of the Caprione lawsuit. The book's strength and value is how well it lays out the solid legal foundation for the current wave of lawsuits. I liked the coverage of the Mississippi players, and this book provides great background to the current wave of lawsuits, it is incomplete by nature (since the lawsuits are still occurring), basically ending with Mike Moore's initial deal. I was very disappointed in the coverage of the Minnesota players. Mr. Pringle dedicates one chapter to the Minnesota lawsuit, and treats them as bit players to (in his opinion) the central figures of Moore and Scruggs. There is also no coverage of the Texas nor Florida lawsuits. He also does not take the time to present the case from the Minnesota, Texas nor Florida points of view, using only Mississippi's legal case. In light of the recent settlement decisions, and document releases this is disappointing. Since the issues are changing so quickly, much of the information in this book is getting dated, despite the new release status of the book. (The recently released 39,000 documents from the Minnesota trial occurred after this book was published for instance) However, the strongest elements of the state lawsuits are well laid out and I would consider buying the sequel.

3 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Free At Last - No Choice Until Now By A Customer Imagine reading and finding that disease you have had or developed wasn't one you had chosen to have?. Imagine a substance freely sold nation wide and in fact world wide, totally subsidized by a humane society and government to wit U.S.A. and deliberately concealed by both as one which the user 'chose' to kill them selves with being at last freely described as 'addictive'. Destroying the myth of over 75 years that Americans as well as citizens of our entire Earth freely chose to use, therefor making the purveyors untouchable in the US Courts of Justice when brought to the bar of justice for redress admitting ipso facto Yes We Have Lied. Imagine your father dieing of lung cance (2 Packs of Pall Malls) your mother dieing of heart attack (2 Packs of Viceroy's) and yourself now smoking Marlboros to the tune of 2 packs a day. Then behold your five children two of them now smoking. Three (12, 10, and 9) already exposed to the deadly toxins we have exposed them to. Read This Book!!. If your angry after reading it - your normal. If your not then you cannot read or lack comprehension. Sincerely Bob Jones, Sr. A Smoker since 14 years old now 55 years old and for al intents and purposes already dead in so far as the Big Tobacco Lobby is concerend and no help in sight unless Jerry Spence see's this and wants another cause to help some poor slave (me) with.

How the law's "junkyard dogs" forced the biggest liability settlement in U.S. business history and laid bare unprecedented corporate fraud. It began in New Orleans with the lung-cancer death of a small-time lawyer. It began in Kentucky when a \$9-an-hour law clerk stole three boxes of incriminating company documents. It began in Mississippi as an outraged country lawyer discovered the costs of cancer care. And it began in Washington as a pediatrician-turned-agency head decided to end tobacco's 90-year immunity from regulation. Suddenly, an untouchable industry was under siege. And in the vanguard of the attack: a consortium of the nation's toughest liability lawyers led by the best friend of that small-time New Orleans attorney. Three years and 33 million documents later, Big Tobacco had been cornered. Though the \$369 billion they have offered to buy peace has been attacked as "too little, too late," it represents a capitulation of monumental proportions. Cornered is the first full account of this unprecedented battle. Dramatic, funny, enraging, it offers the ultimate proof that you can fight city hall.

.com Billed as the "Mother of All Lawsuits," the legal action taken against the tobacco industry in 1994 had all the trappings of an epic battle, and *Cornered: Big Tobacco at the Bar of Justice* often reads like reporting from the front lines--which, in many ways, it is. On one side, deeply entrenched, rested the mammoth legal forces representing the tobacco industry, hardened by nearly continual attacks since the early 1950s and supported by enormous war chests that usually allowed them to hang on until their opponent ran out of financial and legal resources. On the other side, mounting their attack, sat 65 of the most famous and feared trial and personal-injury lawyers in the country--complete with monikers such as "The King of Torts," "The Master of Disaster," and "The Asbestos Avenger"--who were willing to pool their resources, talent, and expertise (and attempt to table their competitiveness and often their hatred for one another) in order to reap the massive payoff that the \$50 billion dollar industry could supply. The opportunity for such a confrontation came after Merrell Williams, a Louisville paralegal, stole roughly 4,000 pages of confidential tobacco-company documents and handed them over to the Mississippi attorney general, Michael Moore. Moore, later joined by 39 other states' attorneys general operating on a different front, sought to go after the tobacco industry to receive payment for Medicaid bills to treat those with smoking-related diseases. These documents exposed the Achilles' heel of Big Tobacco, opening the door to the eventual \$368 billion settlement. Despite the staggering numbers, the deal has been labeled a sellout by many health groups and lawmakers alike. Investigative journalist Peter Pringle meticulously details the entire complicated trial in *Cornered*, and his countless interviews with the major players allow him to paint vivid portraits of the lawyers and lawmakers, many of them brandishing egos as large as the settlement itself. From Publishers Weekly Taking a classic David and Goliath story, veteran newspaper reporter Pringle turns in a superb piece of reporting written with all the texture, detail and intrigue of a fine legal thriller. Pringle sees a hero in the events that led to the landmark legal settlement that compels top U.S. tobacco companies to pay \$369 billion over 25 years to help

the states pay for cigarette-related health care costs. Multimillionaire lawyer Wendell Gauthier of New Orleans dared to weld a coalition of the nation's leading liability lawyers, who, allied with public health activists, took on Big Tobacco. The dramatic events that led to the settlement make for a remarkable story, and Pringle gets the human details just right. His riveting canvas is peopled with dying cancer patients, angry "tobacco widows," smugly overconfident tobacco industry lawyers, compromised scientists, mendacious public relations executives and courageous whistle-blowers. He searchingly delves into the motives of the anti-tobacco lawyers?some driven by social conscience, others by guilt, still others by a religious conviction that their crusade involved doing God's work. His hard-hitting report is strewn with juicy tidbits, like this 1972 memo from a Philip Morris psychologist: "Think of the cigarette as a dispenser for a dose unit of nicotine." Not merely a thumb-wagging expose of corporate venality, this is an exceedingly well-wrought account of legal sparring and the slow awakening of federal and state government to a public health issue. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Pringle puts a human face on the internecine struggles to bring the tobacco interests to court?struggles that will set precedents for generations. The last decade has seen new evidence come to light but also brilliant new strategies from liability lawyers. Pringle conveys it all in a clear and concise story without either portraying the protagonists as evil capitalists and vengeful zealots or losing the narrative amid millions of factoids. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.