

Episode 7 SHOW NOTES

Episode 7 - Gasping for Air

Everything stopped in 2020 with the global Covid-19 pandemic, but in Oregon, another catastrophe was underway... unprecedented wildfires. Prisons across the state were forced to evacuate, adding even more strain to an outdated infrastructure. The twists and turns of Sterling's legal battles finally come to a head.

Correction: Four prisons were evacuated to Oregon State Penitentiary in September of 2020 not three as mentioned in the podcast. Coffee Creek Correction Facility, a women's prison also has an Intake Center which processes both men and women. The men from Coffee Creek Intake Center were evacuated to Oregon State Penitentiary.

Show Notes

Featured

Sterling Cunio

Karuna Thompson, Former Prison Chaplain and Victim Liaison at the Oregon Department of Corrections

Alleen Brown, Environmental Justice Reporter. You can read her reporting [here](#).

Ryan O'Connor, Criminal Defense Attorney

Cheryl Cunio

Aliza Kaplan, Professor of Lawyering and Director of the Criminal Justice Reform Clinic at Lewis & Clark University School of Law.

Chloe Williams, Criminal Defense Attorney

Anthony Pickens

Media

Video Report: ABC News, "Oregon declares state of emergency, 36 wildfires burning" (September 2020)

Audio Report: OPB, "Oregon Inmates Evacuate Amid Wildfires" (September 2020)

Video Report: KGW News, "Oregon governor criticized for granting clemency to murderer" (April 2022)

Video Report: KPTV FOX 12 Oregon, "Family pleas with Governor Brown to deny clemency request" (January 2022)

Video Interview: KGW8, "Full interview: Oregon governor Kate Brown prepares to leave office" (December 2022)

References and Sources

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Sentencing Laws

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Prison Phone Calls

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- [Report](#): Prison Phone Justice, “Oregon State Prison phone rates and kickbacks”
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Clemency

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[Article](#): The Guardian, “The story of one US governor’s historic use of clemency: ‘We are a nation of second chances’” (September 2022)

[Article](#): Oregon Capital Chronicle, “Oregon Gov. Kate Brown commutes 17 death sentences, ending death row” (December 2022)

[Article](#): Oregon Live, “Gov. Kate Brown commutes sentences of 41 inmates who helped battle historic wildfires” (June 2021)

[Article](#): Prison Legal News, “Forty-One Oregon Prison Firefighters have Sentences Commuted” (December 2021)

More Information

[Article](#): The Marshall Project, “Why Record Heat Can be Deadlier in Prisons (September 2022)

[Article](#): The Intercept, Alleen Brown, “Dark, Smoky Cells: As Wildfires Threaten More Prisons, the Incarcerated Ask Who Will Save Their Lives” (February 2022)

[Podcast Episode](#): Intercepted, Alleen Brown, “Cruel and Unusual Punishment: Extreme Heat, Fires, and Floods” (February 2022)

[Article](#): Prison Policy Initiative, “Since You Asked: What’s next for prison and jail phone justice now that the Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act is law” (January 2023)