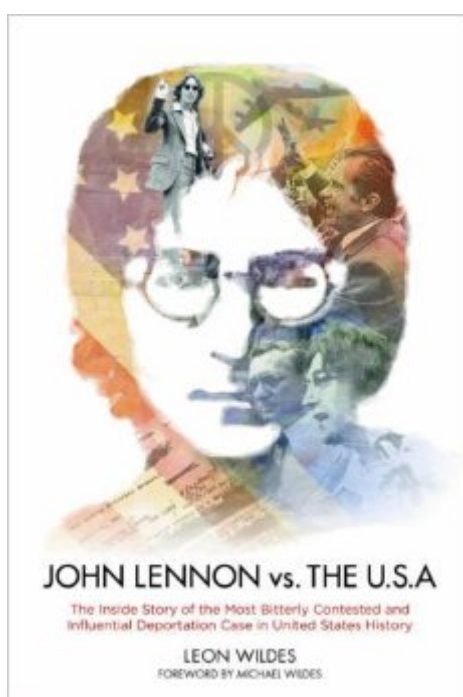


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# John Lennon Vs. The U.S.A.: The Inside Story Of The Most Bitterly Contested And Influential Deportation Case In United States History



## Synopsis

At a time when the hottest issue in US immigration law is the proposed action by President Obama to protect from deportation as many as 5 million illegals in the United States, the 1972 John Lennon deportation case takes on special relevance today, notwithstanding the passage of forty years since he was placed in deportation proceedings. For the first time, noted New York immigration attorney Leon Wildes tells the incredible story of this landmark case – “John Lennon vs. The U.S.A. -- that set up a battle of wills between John Lennon, Yoko Ono, and President Richard Nixon. Although Wildes did not even know who John Lennon and Yoko Ono were when he was originally retained by them, he developed a close relationship with them both during the eventual five-year period while he represented them and thereafter. This is their incredible story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One of the most high-profile immigration cases involved John Lennon and it took 5 years to rectify. Its champion is the author himself, and Leon Wildes gives a first-hand expert look at the many trials and tribulations involved in keeping Lennons (including wife Yoko Ono) in the States despite the Nixon administration’s determination to kick them out. Regardless of his artistic and financial contributions to the nation and because of his outspokenness, Lennon had red tape thrown in his path at every legal turn. But Wildes knew the business of immigration law and through various law suits and challenges taking the government to task, finally achieved the American Dream for John. Though it is heavy on the legalese, this book is a historic document – (Yoko’s words) and has affected immigration law over the past 4 decades. I received a

complimentary copy of this book from the publisher.

This book is a must read for ANY John/Yoko fan, as it chronicles the fight that they undertook with the US Government that consumed half of John's post-Beatles life. Wildes very skillfully balances legalese and layman's language to sift through the wrangling of this clear cut case of selective prosecution, connecting the dots masterfully up to the White House. The outcome of the case set precedent in immigration law that legal types (real or wannabe's) will find fascinating as well. Captivating reading from cover to cover, including the 50-page appendix of documents from the case. This book cannot be recommended highly enough.

This is an interesting and detailed account of the long and complex case of John Lennon and Yoko Ono fighting their deportation from the United States. It's fascinating to see how immigration laws work - sometimes well, sometimes not. The book is not always easy reading, but it's interesting!  
received an ARC in exchange for my honest review

John Lennon's musical legend is known worldwide because of what he contributed to music, art and pop culture. What isn't as well known and is often glossed over in biographical details is the legend that he left in the American immigration and legal systems. In John Lennon vs. the USA reader get a first-hand account of just what Lennon's deportation case did for the future of the immigration system in the United States, told from the person that knew the case best, Leon Wildes. For fans of Lennon's musical side, this book offers little more than a few tidbits about Wildes' personal relationship with the Lennons. However, you do get to see that Lennon truly trusted his lawyer and would do anything for another chance to prove his case, such as signing a shopping bag full of memorabilia for a terminally ill child so his father would testify as an expert in the field of cannabis. What is really remarkable about this book is the legal case itself, regardless of how famous Wildes' clients had been. Before this case, there were secrets, instructions on how to determine a non-priority case hidden from the public, and an interference from American politics like no other. It is a truly scary thought that a paranoid politician with power could try and do so much to deport a musician who, while on American soil, had First Amendment rights and chose to use them. The case also led to many firsts, including utilizing the Freedom of Information Act and leaving a legal legacy to those today who find themselves on the brink of deportation for various reasons. That is why the book seems timely, even if it is talking about a forty-year-old case: Wildes recognized that there were many immigrants, legal and illegal, that were being ignored or even

protected when they should have been deported because of criminal acts, while all Lennon was trying to do was live his life in New York City and help find his wife's first child. This is the kind of book that gives hope to immigrants fighting to stay in the country when they have a case to do so, and it also offers American citizens a glimpse at how lucky they are to have the rights and privileges granted to them because of where they were born. "A book that should be required reading for anyone entering immigration law." Received a copy of this book through NetGalley

In 1972, Richard Nixon faced reelection. He was unpopular with young people due to their opposition to the Vietnam war. In his 1968 campaign, Nixon had pledged to end the war and instead he had escalated it. One outspoken proponent of peace were John and Yoko Ono Lennon. When John Sinclair had been sentenced to two years in prison for two marijuana cigarettes, John and Yoko performed a benefit for him. However, John Sinclair was also a founder of the White Panthers who were armed and bomb makers. This is how John Lennon got on Nixon's radar. Nixon felt certain that the Lennons would travel to the 1972 Miami convention and disrupt the process. The FBI ordered Lennon's arrest if he travelled there on the trumped up charge of interstate travel to conspire to start a riot. The FBI issued orders to deport the Lennons, surveilled, wiretapped, and harassed them. It was part of a program of Cointelpro wherein the FBI would target groups, infiltrate them and apply dirty tricks. This was a covert and illegal program. That artists of the caliber of the Lennons could be so targeted stretches credulity, but Watergate unravelled the dirty workings of the Presidency. Readers may also find //The Burglary by Betsy Medsger a fascinating look into political targeting. The author of this book was the Lennons' immigration attorney.

An incredible story about legendary heroes in two opposite industries. Read as the entertainment field collides with the law and how Leon Wildes, acting as David, stood up to the Government, or Goliath, and changed the history of the United States forever.

A wonderful book about a groundbreaking deportation case and its effect on the stagnant immigration system we find ourselves in today.

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