



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS



Officer Jeff Kaufman (Fmr.) New York Police Department\ New York, NY

Jeff Kaufman began his criminal-justice career in 1980 as a beat cop for the N.Y.P.D. He was assigned to the 75th Precinct in Brooklyn - one of the busiest in New York City. Within a year, he would be one of the responding officers to the Palm Sunday Massacre of 11 people, thus introducing him to the effect of drugs related violence in his community.

In his free time, Kaufman attended law school. When he passed the bar, he was transferred to the N.Y.P.D.'s Legal Bureau, where, among other duties, he brought cases against individuals for forfeiture of their property. Targets included both drug dealers and users. But, after he attended the first National Conference on Asset Forfeiture in Washington, D.C., he began to see just how wrong these policies were. He could see how simply seizing property was not addressing the problem of drug dealing but was creating new problems. Shortly thereafter, Kaufman left the police department and became an indigent defense attorney.

In the mid 1990s Jeff learned about the need for teachers at a high school in the precinct in which he'd once patrolled. Originally intending to return to criminal law, he was offered a teaching position on Riker's Island, where he developed relationships, the nature of which he had been unable to do as either police officer or attorney. "I taught criminal law to adolescents facing life sentences for violent crimes and drug felonies. In class, we had the opportunity to fully explore the ramifications of the laws that put them behind bars."

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership is a nonprofit organization composed of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance drug policy and criminal justice solutions that improve public safety. With 200 speakers across the United States, LEAP representatives reach millions of Americans each year through educational programs and media interviews.

For event bookings, contact Speakers@LawEnforcementAction.org

For media, contact Media@LawEnforcementAction.org

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Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition