Delve Deeper into William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe
A film by Emily Kunstler and Sarah Kunstler

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul A. Bareño of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming POV documentary William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe.

William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe examines the life of this radical attorney from a surprising angle. Kunstler’s two daughters from his second marriage grew up lionizing a man and finding his historic civil rights and anti-war cases. Then, in their teens, they began to be disillusioned by a stubborn man who continued representing some of the most reviled defendants in America — this time accused rapists and terrorists. In this intimate biography, Emily Kunstler and Sarah Kunstler seek to recover the real story of what made their late father one of the most beloved, and hated, lawyers in America.

ADULT NONFICTION

Civil Rights


Criminal Justice


Potts, James. Right to Counsel: A Lawyer’s Struggle to Defend a Serial Killer. Naperville, IL: Sphinx Publishing, 2008. Potts takes you through one young lawyer’s moral struggles when he was called upon to help overturn the conviction of a 28-year-old death row inmate.


Books about cases featured in the film


Books by William Kunstler


Kunstler, William M. with Sheila Isenberg. My Life as a Radical Lawyer. Secaucus, NJ: Carol Publishing Group, 1994. In his autobiography with journalist and co-author Sheila Isenberg, Kunstler recounts his personal and professional life.


William Kunstler


“William M. Kunstler.” in Klebanow, Diana and Franklin L Jonas. People’s Lawyers: Crusaders for Justice in American History. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2003, pp. 303-344. This excerpt profiles 10 American lawyers who the authors believe were driven by the primary goal of using the law to fight for social justice and includes an annotated bibliography for each lawyer.
Delve Deeper into William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe
A film by Emily Kunstler and Sarah Kunstler

NONFICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS


Lewis, Michelle. (ed.) Rights of the Accused. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press/Thomson Gale, 2007. This is an anthology of primary sources, commentary, and analysis that looks at the trends of past court decisions and serves as a good resource for social issues.

NONFICTION FOR CHILDREN


MAGAZINE/JOURNAL/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES


Rosenbaum, Ron. "The Most Hated Lawyer in America." Vanity Fair, March 1992, p. 68. Kunstler is well known for his successful defense of controversial figures such as Malcolm X, John Gotti and Heavy D.


FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

Against the Wall. A film by John Frankenheimer. HBO Video, 2006. TRT: 111 min. This is a dramatization of the 1971 Attica New York Prison uprising, which was originally broadcasted on TV in 1994. www.amazon.com

Chicago 10. Written and directed by Brett Morgen. Paramount Home Entertainment, 2008. TRT: 100 min. This documentary film recounts the anti-war protest of the 1968 Democratic National Convention held in Chicago, and the protest organizers brought to trial by the city. www.amazon.com

Ghosts of Attica. Produced and directed by Brad Lichtenstein. First Run/Icarus Films, 2001. TRT: 89 min. This is an account of America’s most violent prison rebellion and its suppression. Lichtenstein uses newly uncovered videos of the assault, interviews with eyewitnesses who have never spoken before on camera, and footage of inmates and hostages throughout their battles against the state. www.blockbuster.com