

## If It Can Happen to Trump

April 3, 2023

If it can happen to former President Donald Trump — something like the politically motivated ham-sandwich indictment issuing from an avid Trump-hating Democratic DA — can it happen to you and me?

It [already happened to me](#). Fifteen years ago.

Handcuffs and leg-irons. Paul Jacob, Rick Carpenter, Susan Johnson.

The Oklahoma Three. Indicted by an arch enemy of

***If somebody with official power like Edmondson or Bragg wants to wield it against you and is indifferent to the requirements of justice, he might just do that.***

citizen initiative, Oklahoma Apparatchik and Attorney General Drew Edmondson.

No, we hadn't robbed a bank or gunned down the sheriff.

We were accused of not following all regulations in conducting a 2006 petition drive in Oklahoma. The fictional charge: "conspiracy to defraud the state of Oklahoma."



The possibility of ten years in prison hung over our heads for a year and a half. In all that time, the AG started but never completed a preliminary hearing after which a judge could decide whether the indictment had enough evidence to warrant a trial. (Because it didn't.) Then, the federal 10th Circuit declared unconstitutional the law we had allegedly violated, residency requirements for signature gatherers.

Gritting his teeth and with smoke pouring out of his ears, Drew Edmondson dismissed the charges.

If somebody with official power like Edmondson or Bragg wants to wield it against you and is indifferent to the requirements of justice, he might just do that.

Can it happen to you? Maybe not. Keep your head down, never say anything somebody somewhere could dispute, don't leave the house, always wear a disguise, never exercise your political rights in a way that might draw the attention of thin-skinned and scared denizens of the political establishment.

Do all this, and you'll probably almost certainly be fine. Maybe.

Or just fight them anyway.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.