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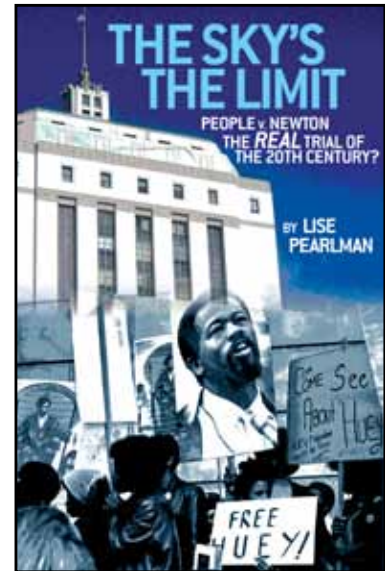
# THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

## People v. Newton

The REAL Trial of the 20th century?

by Lise Pearlman

An early morning shootout between Black Panther leader Huey Newton and two Oakland policemen put Newton on trial for his life in the volatile summer of 1968. Author Lise Pearlman compares that highly politicized trial to other historic legal battles featuring murder, rape and kidnapping, skeletons in celebrity closets, class warfare, fixing the World Series, evolution versus creationism, abuse of power and political conspiracy. Each “trial of the century” serves as a window into its own era. Should the Newton murder trial rank number one? The accused revolutionary put America itself on trial for 400 years of racism. The defense focused international attention on a superpower rocked by two political assassinations and bitterly divided over the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement. At the time, the FBI considered the Panthers the greatest internal threat to America’s security. So did Party spokesman Eldridge Cleaver, who predicted warfare in city streets across the country if Newton were condemned to die. The author contends the jury’s surprising verdict still reverberates today—had it turned out otherwise Barack Obama would likely not be President.



Wednesday, January 25, 2012

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

*Wine & Cheese*

**TERRACE ROOM LAKE MERRITT HOTEL  
1800 MADISON STREET, OAKLAND, CA**

*[A]nyone interested in history, courtroom drama or criminal justice should read this gripping account of an all too often forgotten chapter of the 20th Century.* **Barry Scheck**, PROFESSOR OF LAW, BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW, CO-DIRECTOR, THE INNOCENCE PROJECT

*A powerful account. . . . Read this wonderful book!* **Morrie Turner**, AWARD-WINNING CREATOR OF “WEE PALS” COMIC STRIP

*. . . [F]ast-paced, well-researched . . . . If “THE” trial of the 20th century can be measured, her argument for People v. Newton heading the list is a strong one.* **Penny Cooper**, MEMBER STATE BAR OF CA TRIAL LAWYERS HALL OF FAME

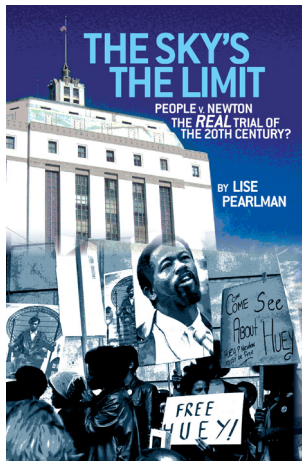
*Eminently worth reading. . . . Loved the book.”* **James Brosnahan, SR.** PARTNER MORRISON FOERSTER, RATED AMONG TOP 30 U.S. TRIAL LAWYERS

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# THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

## PEOPLE v. NEWTON THE REAL TRIAL OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY?

by LISE PEARLMAN

PUBLICATION DATE: February 1, 2012

800 pages / paperback / 6" x 9" ISBN 13: 978-1-58790-220-8 / \$29.95

www.therealtrialofthe20thcentury.com

**ABOUT THE BOOK** Anyone fascinated by true crime and legal thrillers will want to read *The Sky's The Limit: People v. Newton, The Real Trial of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century?* In comparing the 1968 trial of Black Panther Party co-founder Huey Newton to other riveting American trials from 1901 to 1999, author Lise Pearlman revisits historic legal battles featuring murder, rape and kidnapping, skeletons in celebrity closets,

class warfare, fixing the World Series, evolution versus creationism, abuse of power and political conspiracy. Each "trial of the century" serves as a window into its own era, but the author asserts that the Newton murder trial following a shootout with two Oakland policemen—where the accused revolutionary put America itself on trial for 400 years of racism—should head the list. It drew an international spotlight on a superpower rocked by two political assassinations and bitterly divided over the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement. At the time, the FBI considered the Black Panthers the greatest internal threat to America's security. So did Party spokesman Eldridge Cleaver, who predicted warfare in city streets across the country if Newton were condemned to die. The author contends that the jury's surprising verdict still reverberates today—had it turned out otherwise Barack Obama would likely not be President.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** ARC Panelist LISE PEARLMAN was an undergraduate at Yale during the trial of Panther Party Chairman Bobby Seale in New Haven and has lived most of her adult life in Oakland where the 1968 Huey Newton murder trial took place. She arrived for law school in Berkeley in the fall of 1971 between Newton's second and third trials for the killing of Officer Frey. Now a retired judge, she is a mediator and arbitrator on the Northern California panel of Alternative Resolution Centers (www.arc4adr.com).



*Lise Pearlman's account of the tinderbox setting enveloping the trial of Huey Newton perfectly captures how much can be at stake for an entire community—even a nation—in a single trial. . . . [A]nyone interested in history, courtroom drama or criminal justice should read this gripping account of an all too often forgotten chapter of the 20th Century.*

— **Barry Scheck**, PROF. OF LAW, BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW, CO-DIRECTOR, THE INNOCENCE PROJECT

*Fans of famous trials will thoroughly enjoy this fast-paced, well-researched book. If "THE" trial of the 20th century can be measured, her argument for People v. Newton heading the list is a strong one.*

— **Penny Cooper**, MEMBER STATE BAR OF CA TRIAL LAWYERS HALL OF FAME

*Eminently worth reading. Garry's jury selection dealing with race was one of the best pieces of trial work done by anyone. Loved the book."*

— **James Brosnahan**, SR. PARTNER MORRISON FOERSTER, RECOGNIZED AMONG TOP 30 U.S. TRIAL LAWYERS.

*A powerful account of both that trial and its place in our country's history. . . . Read this wonderful book!*

— **Morrie Turner**, AWARD-WINNING CREATOR OF "WEE PALS" COMIC STRIP

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by LISE PEARLMAN

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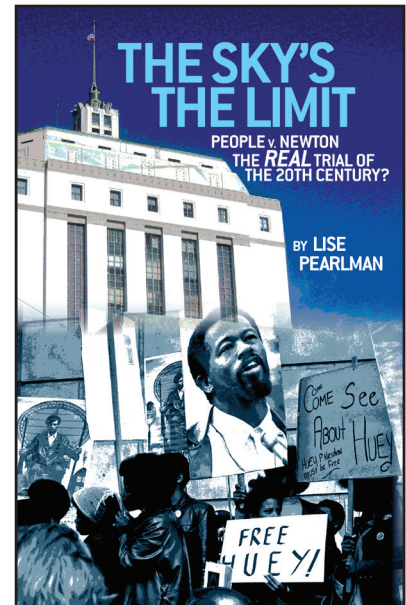
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Wednesday, January 18, 2012

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

*Wine & Cheese*

**TO BE HELD IN THE OFFICES OF NEUFELD, SCHECK & BRUSTIN, LLP  
99 HUDSON STREET, 8TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10013**

*Lise Pearlman’s account of the tinderbox setting enveloping the trial of Huey Newton perfectly captures how much can be at stake for an entire community—even a nation—in a single trial and the exceptional role played by twelve everyday men and women we trust to decide each case. For those, like myself, who recall this case from our youth, Lise has done a wonderful job in both capturing a movement and its historical context. But anyone interested in history, courtroom drama or criminal justice should read this gripping account of an all too often forgotten chapter of the 20th Century.*

— Barry Scheck, PROFESSOR OF LAW, BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW, CO-DIRECTOR, THE INNOCENCE PROJECT

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