

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Former Penn State President Graham Spanier Sets the Record Straight In New Memoir**

August 29, 2022 ---- In a bombshell new memoir, former Pennsylvania State University President Graham Spanier takes aim at the criminal justice system and several high-profile figures whose actions, he documents, harmed Penn State and the reputations of its leaders. Available nationwide, *In the Lions' Den: The Penn State Scandal and a Rush to Judgment* is the first book published by a central figure in one of the biggest collegiate stories in history.

An abuse survivor himself, Spanier says he wrote the book for one reason: “to get the truth on record. Coach Joe Paterno, former Athletic Director Tim Curley, former Senior Vice President Gary Schultz and I never engaged in a cover up.” Spanier says the truth about the saga has been misconstrued by many, and he feels it is his duty to create an accurate historical record.

Charged in 2012 and eventually tried in 2017, Spanier meticulously recounts how prosecutors brought 24 charges against Curley, Schultz and Spanier. All were ultimately thrown out or resulted in not-guilty verdicts, except for one misdemeanor that had not only exceeded its statute of limitations but also did not exist in law as a crime until years later, rendering it a constitutional ex-post facto violation. For years, prosecutors repeatedly offered plea bargains that Spanier refused, including while the jury was deliberating at his own trial. “I never accepted those deals; it would have violated my own values to plead guilty to a crime I did not commit,” he explains.

Spanier asserts there are many people who were not fully truthful or ethical throughout the proceedings. They include a university general counsel who violated attorney-client privilege, a prosecutor whose law license was suspended by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for his wrongdoing in the case, and a grand jury judge forced to resign for unethical conduct by the supreme court.

“This was a colossal miscarriage of justice brought about by serious dysfunction in Pennsylvania’s criminal justice system,” says Spanier.

Spanier reveals that he was fully exonerated by a far more comprehensive investigation than the often-cited report led by former FBI director Louis Freeh. Conducted to renew Spanier's top-secret national security clearances, the federal inquiry included interviews *under oath* with many of the central figures – Curley, Schultz, leaders of the Board of Trustees, university administrators and former General Counsel Cynthia Baldwin. By contrast, Freeh questioned none of the key individuals with direct knowledge of the situation, except Spanier. “Freeh avoided interviewing me, but I insisted that I be permitted to provide a factual accounting,” Spanier recalls. Remarkably, Spanier's legal team was repeatedly rebuffed from getting the federal report - or its conclusions of Spanier's innocence - in front of Freeh, the Board of Trustees, attorney general prosecutors, or the courts.

Spanier also relives his resignation as president. “The Board desired to give the appearance that they fired me, but that was inaccurate,” he explains. “My resignation came from me, along with a gracious letter to the university community that was suppressed. The Board's inability to then manage the crisis on its own turned out to be disastrous for Penn State.”

In the final chapter, Spanier describes his time in the Centre County Correctional Facility from June 7 to August 4, 2021. He was recovering from open heart surgery, had been diagnosed with metastasized cancer, and Covid was roaring through the prisons. Yet, at the insistence of the Attorney General, he was incarcerated for a non-violent misdemeanor – an oddity in the criminal justice system at that time.

Spanier will tour nationwide, giving presentations about the book. “I'm looking forward to answering questions about my experience because there is so much false information out there, even a full decade later, with lessons to be learned.” For a complete schedule: [www.spanierinthelionsden.com](http://www.spanierinthelionsden.com).

*In the Lions' Den* (ISBN-13: 9798985699494) is published by Gryphon Eagle Press. It may be purchased through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and independent bookstores.

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