

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****PARDON POWER: HOW THE PARDON SYSTEM WORKS – AND WHY****New Book from Kim Wehle, Law Professor and Legal Contributor for ABC News,
Takes Readers from the Pardon’s Worthy Beginnings to its Misuse in Modern Times****Foreword by John W. Dean, Counsel to the President of the United States
(1970-73), Nixon White House**

July 10, 2024 -- Woodhall Press announced today that it will publish **Pardon Power: How the Pardon System Works -- and Why**, on September 2, 2024, the latest book by Kimberly Wehle, acclaimed author, law professor, legal analyst, and Legal Contributor for ABC News. She also appears regularly on CNN, C-SPAN and NPR News.

Pardon Power will be released just weeks before the 2024 election. Against this timely backdrop, Wehle takes readers on a fascinating historical journey from British monarchs’ early uses of the pardon – when it was moored in righteous intent – to its misuse in modern times to subvert the American rule of law.

Today, more than ever, the topic of pardons carries enormous implications for democracy, as each day brings a worrying drumbeat of news coverage threatening the end of government by the people. Just this term a majority of Supreme Court justices created a cloak of criminal immunity for presidents, all but inviting crime sprees in the Oval Office. The pardon power was cited to justify this sweeping new authority.

The voting public has witnessed in real-time how pardons have been used to obstruct investigations, reward political allies, and potentially exonerate hundreds who attacked democratic institutions on January 6, 2021. The country is even wrestling with the possibility of presidential self-pardons that put the nation’s highest office-holder above the law. As Mimi Rocah, former federal prosecutor and division chief, U.S. Attorney’s office, SDNY, states: “**Pardon Power** is a vital contribution in a critical time where we must look to strengthen the guardrails against corruption.”

With a compelling foreword by John W. Dean, Counsel to the President of the United States in the Nixon White House, in which he highlights his own first-hand experience with pardons, Wehle’s book pulls back the curtain on some colorful and often overlooked moments in U.S. and ancient world history – from Pontius Pilate’s pardon of Barabbas in the New Testament to the Ancient Roman pardon power bestowed upon prisoners by Vestal Virgins. The book also covers the political fallout around the Whiskey Rebellion and the Mountain Meadows Massacre in Mormon-dominated Utah, as well as the wide range of pardon systems used by the states and across the globe, from Japan to Zambia.

- more -

TITLE: Pardon Power: How the Pardon Power Works -- and Why | **PUBLISHER:** Woodhall Press
PUBLICATION DATE: September 2, 2024 | **ISBN:** 978-1954907508 | Trade Paper: 200 pages | \$22.95

Woodhall Press | woodhallpress.com | FB/INSTA/X: @woodhallpress

PARDON POWER

HOW THE PARDON SYSTEM
WORKS – AND WHY



KIM WEHLE

PROFESSOR OF LAW, LEGAL EXPERT, ABC NEWS

PARDON POWER: HOW THE PARDON SYSTEM WORKS – AND WHY

Numerous lawyers and leading legal and political commentators have already offered praise for Wehle’s book, including Rod Rosenstein, Deputy Attorney General, Trump Administration, who states: “Wehle’s timely book illuminates a vast constitutional power likely to be debated during the 2024 presidential campaign and beyond.”

Charlie Sykes, MSNBC contributor, says: “**Pardon Power** is a must read for those who care about the fate of American democracy. Wehle explains why and how guardrails must be recognized around the presidential pardon power, which is increasingly making headlines, before it’s too late for American democracy itself.”

At an incredibly important moment in our nation’s history, and on the verge of one of the most impactful presidential elections of our time, Wehle has written a book that sheds light on the anti-democratic power of the pardon, exposing its potential to do great harm in the hands of the wrong person.

###

Kimberly Wehle (pronounced “Whale-ee”) is an expert in constitutional law and the separation of powers, with particular emphasis on presidential power and administrative agencies. She is a tenured law professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law and a legal commentator for ABC News. Kim regularly writes for *Politico*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Bulwark*, among other publications. She was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Washington D.C. office and Associate Independent Counsel in the Whitewater Investigation. She is author of the books, *What You Need to Know about Voting—and Why*, *How to Read The Constitution—and Why*, and *How to Think Like a Lawyer—and Why: A Common-Sense Guide to Everyday Dilemmas*. Kim is also the recipient of a 2024-2025 Fulbright US Scholar Award for the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. Her work can be found at kimwehle.com, and [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kimwehle) and [X @kimwehle](https://www.x.com/kimwehle). She also publishes a Substack biweekly newsletter and has a video series, *The Little Law School*, which is available on YouTube, along with her interviews of leading figures in law, politics, and history. **Pre-order PARDON POWER at booksellers everywhere.**

TITLE: Pardon Power: How the Pardon Power Works -- and Why | **PUBLISHER:** Woodhall Press
PUBLICATION DATE: September 2, 2024 | **ISBN:** 978-1954907508 | Trade Paper: 200 pages | \$22.95

Woodhall Press | woodhallpress.com | FB/INSTA/X: @woodhallpress