

# Alan Dershowitz

## Quotes

*Law, Thinking, Justice, Government, People, Israel, Believe, Rights, Country,  
Freedom Of Speech, School, Gun, Years, War, Religious, Want, Real, Mean,  
Firsts, Play*

Judges are the weakest link in our system of justice and they are also the most protected.

~Alan Dershowitz

The defendant wants to hide the truth because he's generally guilty. The defense attorney's job is to make sure the jury does not arrive at that truth.

~Alan Dershowitz

The law is agnostic about truth. It's very skeptical of ultimate truth. That's why freedom of speech permits lies to be told.

~Alan Dershowitz

A library is a place where you learn what teachers were afraid to teach you.

~Alan Dershowitz

Hypocrisy is not a way of getting back to the moral high ground. Pretending you're moral, saying your moral is not the same as acting morally.

~Alan Dershowitz

In the real world in which we live, you always have to choose between evils. And in choosing between evils, you have to have moral criteria for how to make those choices.

~Alan Dershowitz

There are many levels of truth.

~Alan Dershowitz

It simply cannot be disputed that for decades the Palestinian leadership was more interested in there not being a Jewish state than in there being a Palestinian state.

~Alan Dershowitz

I was critical of race-based affirmative action early on in my career and I've changed my mind. And I've publicly acknowledged that I was wrong.

~Alan Dershowitz

There is a paranoid streak in American life. Radio talk show hosts tend to foment that paranoid streak in American life.

~Alan Dershowitz

Asymmetrical warfare is a euphemism for terrorism, just like collateral damage is a euphemism for killing innocent civilians.

~Alan Dershowitz

I think we have to give religion its due. I think we have to respect those for whom religion is important, but equally respect those who can achieve good morality without religion.

~Alan Dershowitz

In today's distorted world of 'human rights,' truth takes a back seat to ideology, and false claims - especially those that 'support' radical ideologies - persist even after they have been exposed.

~Alan Dershowitz

The threat or fear of violence should not become an excuse or justification for restricting freedom of speech.

~Alan Dershowitz

Candor and accountability in a democracy is very important. Hypocrisy has no place.

~Alan Dershowitz

I know Obama, I like Obama, I voted for Obama.

~Alan Dershowitz

Rights are not self-evident. They're not unalienable. They are subject to modification just like anything else.

~Alan Dershowitz

Being offended by freedom of speech should never be regarded as a justification for violence.

~Alan Dershowitz

I am a man of principle. I will stick by my principles. I will tell the truth no matter where the chips fall.

~Alan Dershowitz

If America has the right to target Osama bin Laden, or terrorists, of course Israel has the right to defend itself from terrorism.

~Alan Dershowitz

I have been defending Israel's right to exist, and to defend itself against terrorism, for many years-on college campuses, in television appearances and in debate.

~Alan Dershowitz

The law is agnostic about truth.

~Alan Dershowitz

You're absolutely right: Bob Grant is a racist, Bob Grant is a bigot, he's a despicable talk show host and I agree with that.

~Alan Dershowitz

It's never acceptable to target civilians. It violates the Geneva Accords, it violates the international law of war and it violates all principles of morality.

~Alan Dershowitz

The judge also has a truth he wants to hide: He often hasn't been

completely candid in describing the facts or the law.

~Alan Dershowitz

Censorship laws are blunt instruments, not sharp scalpels. Once enacted, they are easily misapplied to merely unpopular or only marginally dangerous speech.

~Alan Dershowitz

I will continue to fight for justice, fairness, and constitutional rights until my dying breath.

~Alan Dershowitz

I think most defense attorneys honestly believe the principle that says, 'Better 10 guilty go free than even one possibly innocent person be convicted.'

~Alan Dershowitz

I have always considered "Pascal's Wager" a questionable bet to place. Any God worth "believing in" would surely prefer an honest agnostic to a calculating hypocrite.

~Alan Dershowitz

It is difficult to offend a New Yorker.

~Alan Dershowitz

The court of last resort is no longer the Supreme Court. It's 'Nightline.'

~Alan Dershowitz

The best answer to bad speech is good speech

~Alan Dershowitz

I think that lawyers are terrible at admitting that they're wrong. And not just admitting it - also realizing it.

~Alan Dershowitz

The prosecution wants to make sure the process by which the evidence was obtained is not truthfully presented, because, as often as not, that process will raise questions.

~Alan Dershowitz

Question authority; but, raise your hand first.

~Alan Dershowitz

All sides in a trial want to hide at least some of the truth.

~Alan Dershowitz

In our criminal justice system, we say it's better for 10 guilty people to go free than for even one innocent person to be wrongly convicted.

~Alan Dershowitz

In my neighborhood, everyone had an opinion on the local cantor. You didn't go to a synagogue to listen to the rabbi's sermon. You went to listen to the cantor. It was like a concert.

~Alan Dershowitz

I was a Jewish rabbinical student for 12 years, and studied the Bible all the time.

~Alan Dershowitz

I don't believe in firing professors. They have academic freedom.

~Alan Dershowitz

I think extremists within the base may very well move the Democratic party away from its pro-Israel position.

~Alan Dershowitz

I've had such a satisfying life professionally and personally. I hope my tombstone says, 'Never boring.'

~Alan Dershowitz

Scientists search for truth. Philosophers search for morality. A criminal trial searches for only one result: proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

~Alan Dershowitz

Such technological tools ... are helping us now in the hot war against terrorists who would bomb this theater if they had the capacity to do so.

~Alan Dershowitz

Most liberal democracies don't try to figure out what the truth is.

~Alan Dershowitz

The worst mistake you can make is underrating your enemy. Assuming that they're evil - I think it's a terrible thing to do.

~Alan Dershowitz

The vast majority of gun owners don't kill, but people who do kill, tend to kill with guns, and often with illegal guns.

~Alan Dershowitz

There's no evidence that I'm aware of that guns protect liberty.

~Alan Dershowitz

The Second Amendment has no place in modern society.

~Alan Dershowitz

A criminal trial is never about seeking justice for the victim. If it were, there could be only one verdict: guilty.

~Alan Dershowitz

Twenty five percent of Israeli citizens are not even Jewish. Anybody can become an Israeli citizen if you qualify. Religion is not a criterion for citizenship.

~Alan Dershowitz

There's simply nothing in there that would justify second degree murder.

~Alan Dershowitz

There is no perfect justice, just as there is no absolute in ethics. But there is perfect injustice, and we know it when we see it.

~Alan Dershowitz

The first rule for escaping prison in the United States is always having someone more important than yourself to incriminate.

~Alan Dershowitz

When you discriminate against anyone, you discriminate against everyone. It's a display of terrible intolerance.

~Alan Dershowitz

I'm not a single-issue person, but I spend so much time on Israel because it is so unfairly condemned around the world.

~Alan Dershowitz

Nobody wants justice.

~Alan Dershowitz

African-Americans are as fair as any other group, but they bring their life experiences to bear as just as whites bring their experiences to bear.

~Alan Dershowitz

It's a new phenomenon in America that states can now sue the national government and become a kind of check and balance on the excesses of the federal government.

~Alan Dershowitz

I've thought of publishing a book of my hate mail, but I don't own the



rights to the letters.

~Alan Dershowitz

Well, many insane people and seriously mentally ill people seem very reasonable.

~Alan Dershowitz

The struggle for morality never stays won. It's always in process.

~Alan Dershowitz

Well, first of all, no professor should be able to say, I refuse to defend my position. I refuse to debate my position.

~Alan Dershowitz

Great research universities must insist on independence from government and on the exercise of academic freedom.

~Alan Dershowitz

A state has the right to prohibit the killing of dogs and bears whether for film or for other purposes.

~Alan Dershowitz

It's every lawyer's dream to help shape the law, not just react to it.

~Alan Dershowitz

A good lawyer knows how to shut up when he's won his case.

~Alan Dershowitz

Imagine a legal system in which lawyers were equated with the clients they defended and were condemned for representing controversial or despised clients.

~Alan Dershowitz

That's when civil liberty suffers - when we think special times justify the

diminution of civil liberties. And I'm not going to accept that.

~Alan Dershowitz

Any human being has private thoughts.

~Alan Dershowitz

I learn from experience.

~Alan Dershowitz

I've thought hard about my psychological connections and I think I've managed to separate out the psychological from the legal, moral, and political.

~Alan Dershowitz

I am a peace supporting Jew.

~Alan Dershowitz

Ideas don't desert you; ideas aren't treasonous to you, but people can be.

~Alan Dershowitz

I never place limits on the potential success of my students. If they're going into acting, they're going to win the Oscar... If they're going into law, they're going to be chief justice.

~Alan Dershowitz

The Internet knows no national borders.

~Alan Dershowitz

I love to play. I love, opera, hiking and museums. The one thing I don't do is sit. I have a tremendous amount of energy.

~Alan Dershowitz

I feel like my 50 years at Harvard were an interlude. I'm really a New

Yorker.

~Alan Dershowitz

Israel and the Palestinians must resolve their own differences. The United States can play an important role as facilitator and guarantor.

~Alan Dershowitz

Accusations fit on Greenwald really sounds like he's against all surveillance unless you can find a guy with the Al Qaeda card, wearing an Al Qaeda baseball cap, an Al Qaeda uniform.

~Alan Dershowitz

My goal is always to keep support for Israel a bi-partisan issue and never make a national election any kind of referendum on Israel.

~Alan Dershowitz

This is not about celebrity justice, this is about the rights of the children.

~Alan Dershowitz

I understand that it's good tactics to categorize me as a close-minded, unobjective extremist, but nobody that respects me has those views.

~Alan Dershowitz

When I was 14 or 15, a camp counselor told me I was smart. I had never been very good in school, but he told me once that I was smart but my mind operated a little differently.

~Alan Dershowitz

I think we're seeing privacy diminish, not by laws... but by young people who don't seem to value their privacy.

~Alan Dershowitz

I think there would be less torture with a warrant requirement than

without one.

~Alan Dershowitz

There are two kinds of terrorism. Rational terrorism such as Palestinian terrorism and apocalyptic terrorism like Sept. 11. You have to distinguish between the two.

~Alan Dershowitz

Laws are important precisely because in a democracy they reflect the attitudes and aspirations of those they govern.

~Alan Dershowitz

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