

# Potter Stewart Quotes

*Law, Rights, May, Obscenity, Kind, Today, People, Justice, Liberty, Home, Men,  
Succeed, Practice, Giving, Murder, Medical, Government, Expression, Office,  
Different*

A person's mere propinquity to others independently suspected of criminal activity does not give rise to probable cause to search that person.

~Potter Stewart

Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.

~Potter Stewart

Abortion is inherently different from other medical procedures, because no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life.

~Potter Stewart

Swift justice demands more than just swiftness.

~Potter Stewart

Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself. It is a hallmark of an authoritarian regime.

~Potter Stewart

The dichotomy between personal liberties and property rights is a false one. Property does not have rights. People have rights.

~Potter Stewart

Fairness is what justice really is.

~Potter Stewart

It must always be remembered that what the Constitution forbids is not all searches and seizures, but unreasonable searches and seizures.

~Potter Stewart

I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material but I know it when I see it.

~Potter Stewart

To force a lawyer on a defendant can only lead him to believe that the law contrives against him.

~Potter Stewart

These death sentences are cruel and unusual in the same way that being struck by lightning is cruel and unusual.

~Potter Stewart

In fact, a fundamental interdependence exists between the personal right to liberty and the personal right to property.

~Potter Stewart

The Court today holds the Congress may say that some of the poor are too poor even to go bankrupt. I cannot agree.

~Potter Stewart

We dedicated ourselves to a powerful idea - organic law rather than naked power. There seems to be universal acceptance of that idea in the nation.

~Potter Stewart

The right to enjoy property without unlawful deprivation, no less that the right to speak out or the right to travel is, in truth, a "personal" right.

~Potter Stewart

For me this is not something that can be swept under the rug and forgotten in the interest of forced Sunday togetherness.

~Potter Stewart

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