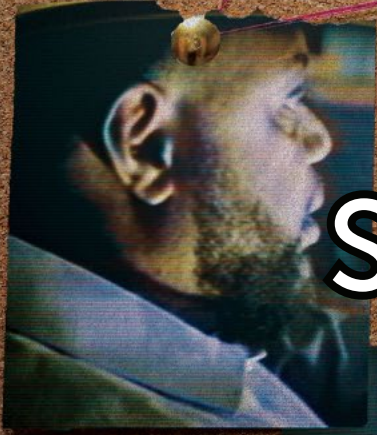


WHEN COPS BECOME ROBBERS

A FILM BY JUST ADD FIREWATER



PARTNER SCREENING GUIDE



Thank you

Thank you for your interest in hosting a screening of *When Cops Become Robbers*. We hope this film will generate a lively and productive discussion of the practice of Civil Asset Forfeiture and its place in our legal system. The following guide provides options for screenings, a practical blueprint for hosting one, and information to help facilitate a meaningful conversation on the topic.

We are here to partner with you to create a successful event that meets the needs of your audience and makes it as easy as possible to engage with the film. Reach out any time if we can help.

FAST FACT

84% of Americans **oppose**
Civil Asset Forfeiture

when they understand what it is.

The problem is that so few people
know it exists.

Let's change that together.

About the Film

Civil Asset Forfeiture (CAF) is a law enforcement tool adapted in the 1980s for use in the American War on Drugs. CAF allows law enforcement agents at all levels of government to seize property they suspect was used in or resulted from a crime without proof or due process of law.

Victims of CAF must prove the innocence of their property at their own expense, flipping the American legal principle of innocent until proven guilty on its head.

In this feature-length documentary, we bring this corruption into the sunlight of public discourse through the stories of those trying to end it. This documentary features experts from across the political spectrum, with experts from groups like the Institute for Justice, the Cato Institute, the ACLU, and others.

Learn more about the film
and view the trailer at
WhenCopsBecomeRobbers.com

Screening Options

The film's producers will work with you to customize a screening event that meets the needs of your audience. We work with [Kinema](#) to offer a number of options for partner screenings. We will walk you through the use of the Kinema platform to book the screening, obtain the proper licenses, and deliver the film to you.

Option 1: [In-Person Screening](#)

A film screening with an optional (but encouraged) discussion can take place as a standalone event or as part of a regularly scheduled meeting for your group. The film is 1 hour 26 minutes, and you should allow 30 minutes to 1 hour for discussion. We also have a one hour version of the film if time is tight.

Option 2: [On-Demand Screening](#) ("Watch Separately. Discuss Together.")

This allows your audience to watch the film online during a limited timeframe. Generally, there is an in-person or virtual discussion scheduled for after the viewing period to hear from experts on the topic and generate a conversation among the viewers. We keep the film viewing window open for a few days beyond the event to capture those who are inspired by the conversation but were not able to view the entire film before the event. All audience members must register for the event with a Kinema account to view the film.

Option 3: [Virtual Screening](#) ("Watch Together. Discuss Together.")

The film will be online at your scheduled date and time within your own virtual cinema. You will be provided with an event page where your audience can register. All audience members must register for the event with a Kinema account to view the film. They will be provided with instructions for accessing the film and their ticket will be in their account dashboard. Your audience will watch the film together in a synchronized stream with the option to live text chat and participate in a pre- or post-show discussion.

FYI: The film's producers are available for pre- or post-viewing discussions and can also provide introductions to experts in the film for potential appearances. In some cases, travel and/or honoraria will be required for speakers, and we will go through that as part of the event planning discussions.

Logistics Guide

By hosting a screening, you are creating a gathering place for diverse community members to have real conversations around Civil Asset Forfeiture specifically and the role of law enforcement in general. Just because the topic is serious, does not mean you can't make this a fun event with food, drink and really interesting panelists.

STEP 1

Reach out to [Andrea Fuller](#) or [Patrick Reasonover](#) at [Just Add Firewater](#) via email or the form on our website to talk through your goals for the screening, potential dates, audience, and options for the event.

STEP 2

Pick your date and how you want to host the screening (in-person, virtual, on-demand). Secure a venue if needed. You can host anywhere that has a screen and a comfy place to sit. Consider adding hosting partners (especially groups you might not usually agree with) to widen your audience and share the work of hosting.

STEP 3

Sign up on [Kinema.com](#) and get your license. You will register as a host and select When Cops Become Robbers. It's super easy. Kinema will sort you out on the right license and fee (if applicable) based on the details of your screening type.

STEP 4

Recruit a moderator and panelists and any VIPs like local officials or community leaders you want to attend.

STEP 5

Get the film. For in-person, Kinema will deliver the film electronically so you can test it ahead of time. You should download the film on the computer you are using for the event. For virtual and on-demand screenings, you will receive instructions on how your audience can view the film. We suggest watching on a non-mobile device and using the latest version of Chrome for virtual or on-demand screenings.

Logistics Guide (continued)

STEP 6

Promote. Promote. Promote. Use newsletters, posters, scheduled, regular social media posts, and individual outreach to build your audience. Interesting speakers and food and drinks are always a good way to get a crowd. Here are some resources to help you. Also, follow-up with your panelists by coordinating a pre-screening call to go over the topics that will be covered.

STEP 7

Host and Have Fun. Press play, watch the film, and then lead a lively discussion or debate. Let people share what stuck with them, what bothered them, what they think we should do next. Have a photographer present or someone assigned to take photos so there is content for social media posts.

STEP 8

Follow-up. We will provide you with a list of who registered and email addresses through the Kinema platform. Preferably at the event, but definitely after, please ask the audience to participate in our brief impact survey and reiterate your specific call to action. We will share the results with you. This is also a good time to send thank yous to attendees, panelists, partners, and the AV team.

Download the screening checklist [here](#).

FAST FACT

\$68.8 billion seized
using CAF since 2020

This undercounts the true total since not all states report full data.

Tips for a Great Screening

- Test everything before the screening. Triple check the venue to make sure there have been no changes to the site and the AV team is properly prepped.
- Assemble a great panel, prep them, ask good questions, and leave plenty of time for audience discussion.
- Keep the panel small (2-4 people) to enable everyone to talk and interact with the audience.
- Make it local. If you can have panelists from the local community who have been impacted by CAF or have a specific community point of view (like a local sheriff), this will make it more meaningful for your audience.
- Have snacks. Cannot stress this enough.
- Reach out if you need anything at all. We're here to help make your event a success.
- Get social at the event—post on social media about the conversation, post short clips of the film, show everyone having a great time at the after party.

Sample Schedule for an early evening, in-person, full-film screening:

4:30 PM	Moderator and Panelists Arrive / Tech Check with AV
4:45 PM	Audience begins arriving / check in
5:00 PM	Host lets audience know we will be starting in a few minutes
5:05 PM	Host introduces the event and goals for the conversation
5:10 PM	Film starts (note: film can also be viewed ahead of time)
6:30 PM	Panel and Q&A (note: use 1-hr film version to extend panel discussion)
7:00 PM	Reception + informal continuation of the conversation

Discussion Questions

The ideal post-film discussion should get participants to express something in a way that's surprising, new, or insightful. This is easier said than done, so we have created some prompts to lay the groundwork for your provocative and powerful discussion. These will need to be customized to your particular panel and audience and we are here to help if needed.

1. What was your first reaction when you learned that police can take property from people without charging them with a crime?
2. Which story in the film—Eh Wah, Anthonia, Mandrel, or Jeremiah—affected you the most, and why?
3. How do you think laws like these turn “good cops into bad guys,” as one interviewee put it?
4. The film shows how forfeiture money funds police departments. How might that affect the way police behave?
5. Do you believe most Americans know this practice exists? Why do you think it's been able to continue for so long?
6. What surprised you most about how difficult it is to get seized property back?
7. The film features both conservatives and progressives calling for change. Why do you think this issue crosses political lines?
8. What would justice look like for the people who lost their property in the film?
9. The documentary highlights New Mexico's reform, which ended civil forfeiture without increasing crime. What lessons could other states take from that?
10. What can you do next? (e.g., share the film, host a screening, talk to legislators, raise awareness online)

Take Action

Civil asset forfeiture survives because most people don't know it exists, and those who do often don't know what to do next. Here are meaningful ways you can get involved, at whatever level you're comfortable.

Learn & Understand

Learn how civil asset forfeiture works, and how it affects your state. Understanding the issue is the first step toward reform.

- [Learn the basics of civil asset forfeiture](#) (Institute for Justice)
- [See how forfeiture laws vary by state](#): "Policing for Profit" interactive tools and reports (Institute for Justice)
- [Explore research on incentives and abuse](#) (Cato Institute)

Spread the Word

Most Americans oppose civil asset forfeiture once they understand it. You can help close the knowledge gap.

- Share the film and website: whencopsbecomerobbers.com
- Talk about CAF on social media. Suggested hashtags:
 - #WhenCopsBecomeRobbers
 - #NoCrimeNoCharge
 - #EndLegalTheft
 - #CorruptAF

Engage Your Elected Officials

You don't have to lobby — you can ask questions and share concerns.

- [Find your elected officials](#)
- Call or write to ask:
 - "What do you know about civil asset forfeiture?"
 - "Do you believe property should be taken without criminal charges?"
 - "What safeguards exist for innocent people in our state?"
- Share the film or your reaction to it as a constituent story. (Note: This project does not advocate for specific legislation, but encourages informed civic engagement.)

Take Action (continued)

Stay Connected

Change takes time, and momentum matters.

- [Sign up](#) for updates about the film, screenings, and new resources
- Follow the project on social media [[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [YouTube](#)]

Why It Matters

Civil asset forfeiture changes the relationship between citizens and the government. It allows the police to take property first and sort out the facts later, often at great cost to people who have never been accused, much less convicted, of a crime.

As the film shows, this system affects families, small business owners, and travelers from every background. It also puts law-enforcement officers in an impossible position, rewarding seizures over public safety and eroding trust in the communities they serve.

Most Americans, regardless of party, agree on a basic standard of justice: property should not be taken unless the government proves wrongdoing in court. When that standard is abandoned, confidence in the law itself begins to break down.

Reforming civil asset forfeiture is about restoring fairness, accountability, and the idea that the law exists to protect the innocent, not to treat them as a source of revenue.