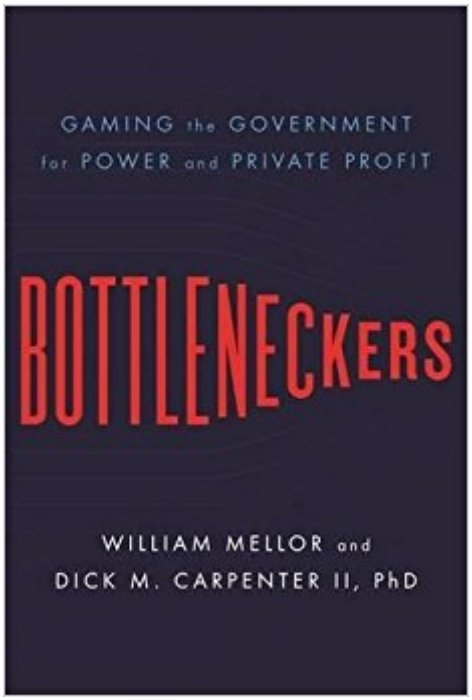
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Bottleneckers: Gaming The Government For Power And Private Profit



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Synopsis

Bottlenecker (n): a person who advocates for the creation or perpetuation of government regulation, particularly an occupational license, to restrict entry into his or her occupation, thereby accruing an economic advantage without providing a benefit to consumers. The Left, Right, and Center all hate them: powerful special interests that use government power for their own private benefit. In an era when the Left hates “fat catsÃ¢â ¬Â• and the Right despises “crony capitalists,Ã¢â ¬Â• now there is an artful and memorable one-word pejorative they can both get behind: bottleneckers. A “bottleneckerÃ¢â ¬Â• is anyone who uses government power to limit competition and thereby reap monopoly profits and other benefits. Bottleneckers work with politicians to constrict competition, entrepreneurial innovation, and opportunity. They thereby limit consumer choice; drive up consumer prices; and they support politicians who willingly overstep the constitutional limits of their powers to create, maintain, and expand these anticompetitive bottlenecks. The Institute for JusticeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s new book Bottleneckers coins a new word in the American lexicon, and provides a rich history and well-researched examples of bottleneckers in one occupation after another—from alcohol distributors to taxicab cartels—pointing the way to positive reforms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William H. (Chip) Mellor serves as chairman and founding general counsel of the Institute for Justice. He cofounded IJ in 1991 and served as president and general counsel until 2015. He has

litigated cutting-edge constitutional cases, notably achieving the first federal appellate court victory for economic liberty under the Fourteenth Amendment since the New Deal. While Mellor was president, IJ litigated five US Supreme Court cases, winning four.Ã Â Under MellorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s leadership, IJ has grown from a five-person start-up into a law firm with a nearly hundred-member staff, including over forty attorneys and an annual budget of $20 million. Dick Carpenter is a director of strategic research at the Institute for Justice and a professor at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

A very good read. I wish he got into the many other avenues of the Bottleneckers, such as programmatic accrediting bodies that operates like as trade associations

I have been following the work of the Institute for Justice for many years and this book sums up the group's reason for existence -- to oppose the misuse of government power to keep people from competing with entrenched interest groups. The many cases the authors discuss are very enlightening. One of the points I wish they'd emphasized more is that the politicians who often assist the "bottlenecks" in keeping out competition are often ones who loudly proclaim that they're so concerned about helping "the little guy." Taking campaign cash from interest groups that impede entrepreneurship and upward mobility for poor people is actually far more important to them. You will cringe at the nasty tactics often employed by the monopolists and their political allies.

Commentary on the sad state of free enterprise in a declining capitalist state.

Links in Table of Contents don't work. No Endnotes. So that destroys a good bit of the value of the book. Needs to be fixed. Once fixed, I would give the book four stars. Citations are often week. No citations to specific state statutes. Just citations to other works. This is insufficient in my opinion.

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