

Mashable

I Fought The Law

By MJ Franklin, September 9, 2017



It all started with one vague conversation.

“One winter evening in 2012, a friend told me it was illegal to have an ice-cream cone in your back pocket,” says photographer Oliva Locher. “Our conversation quickly moved on to a new topic but that statement stuck with me. After doing some research and learning of many other strange laws I knew I had a new project.”

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That project transformed itself into Locher's new book, *I Fought The Law*, a photo examination of the absurd laws in American history. For the book, Locher figured out strange laws in each state in the U.S. and photographed each one being broken.

Though each image caption starts off with "In [state] it is illegal to," not all the laws photographed in the *I Fought The Law* are fact. It turns out that it's actually not illegal to have ice cream in your back pocket in Alabama, like Locher originally heard and then photographed. But it was a law in Georgia and Kentucky. Yet, Locher repeats the legend.

The book is composed of laws still on the books, laws that were on the books but were removed, laws that were almost created but never passed, and urban myths that people believe to be real laws in their state. But for Locher, that uncertainty brings intrigue to the work.

"I like the ambiguity and history of the audience not knowing what is true vs. false ... I appreciate how it allows people to fall into a rabbit hole searching for the truth if they wish."

"The project too feels like a surreal road trip through North America. I discovered people are really fascinated to learn what's illegal in their home state."

"I think [seeing laws photographed] allows for people to question where they stand and how any of these laws may affect their own lives."