

Justice:Denied - Issue 32, Spring 2006

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Message From The Publisher

During the Faces of Wrongful Conviction Conference at UC Los Angeles in April, Lawrence Marshall, director of Stanford’s Clinical Law Program, commented that a significant problem with correcting wrongful convictions is the arrogant attitude of many prosecutors, judges and police investigators that the legal system reliably convicts the right person, and errors are aberrations.

With all due respect to Professor Marshall, I think it is more accurate to describe their attitude as pigheaded at best, and malevolent at worst. I can’t recall meeting a person claiming innocence convicted in either a state or federal court, or one of their family members or friends who witnessed all or part of the person’s trial, who didn’t express the impression that the courtroom proceedings were akin to a “kangaroo court.”

It is telling that a system held in such low esteem by the people it most personally affects and who are living examples of how unreliable it can be, is viewed with uncritical admiration by so many judges and people associated with the prosecution. For an example of how that pigheaded (or malevolent) attitude was expressed in a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, see the article and editorial concerning *Kansas v. Marsh* (U.S. 2006) on page 34.

At the same UCLA conference, Craig Haney, Professor of Psychology, UC Santa Cruz, and author of *Death By Design*, gave a presentation explaining the mainstream media regularly exposes the public to the idea “crimes” are committed by “bad” people who deserve severe punishment. Jurors accepting that idea have a propensity to convict a defendant in spite of skimpy evidence, and in a capital case to favor a death sentence. Haney’s research underscores the importance of alternate media, such as *JD*, to countervail “tough on crime”/pro-prosecution attitudes by exposing how and why it isn’t unusual for an innocent person to be accused, and convicted, of a crime.

Hans Sherrer, Publisher

Justice:Denied - the magazine for the wrongly convicted

Justice: Denied’s logo represents the snake of evil and injustice climbing up on the scales of justice.



Information About *Justice:Denied*

Six issues of *Justice:Denied* magazine costs \$10 for prisoners and \$20 for all other people and organizations. Prisoners can pay with stamps and pre-stamped envelopes. A sample issue costs \$3. See order form on page 47. An information packet will be sent with requests that include a 37¢ stamp or a pre-stamped envelope. Write: Justice Denied, PO Box 68911, Seattle, WA 98168.

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***Justice:Denied* does not and cannot give legal advice.**

If you have an account of a wrongful conviction that you want to share, please read and follow the Submission Guidelines on page 46. If page 46 is missing, send a SASE or a 37¢ stamp with a request for an information packet to, Justice Denied, PO Box 68911, Seattle, WA 98168. Cases of wrongful conviction submitted in accordance with *Justice:Denied’s* guidelines will be reviewed for their suitability to be published. *Justice:Denied* reserves the right to edit all submitted accounts for any reason.

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