

Of “Honourable” Judges¹

Citizens are getting more and more outraged as they watch our wise men play their games, make their big money and have fun undermining the whole idea of justice, all the while giving the finger to the people.

One of the common complaints is that our “honourables” with their skewed sense of “justice” are far removed from the people. They are as haughty as the Liberals who appointed many of them. Only yesterday Paul Williamson of the BC Supreme Court at length tried to convince high school students how close he is to the people. A student asked, “What do you think about *Law and Order*? According to Ian Mulgrew of the *VS*, Williamson responded: “What’s that?”—completely “without a whiff of irony”! Comments Mulgrew, “You could see the look of puzzlement sweep across the eager faces.”

If imprisonment often fails to express the justice society demands, is it not about time our professional “honourables” begin to think out of their box that must be well over a century old. Give some leadership in new directions that satisfy the people’s demands for justice? (I know, it’s not for everyone to upset the machine that feeds you so well.) How about military-like boot camps to teach civil values like respect for self and others, work, honesty, community? Six months or more of strenuous training in such an environment is something worth considering. *I so propose.*

I have been watching these trends for some years and have collected a hefty file of the juicy stories that appear almost daily. The range of thoughts and emotions I regularly experience include those of a deep sense of insult, almost vicious resentment and something akin to total contempt of... Oops, I’m close to a crime that deeply offends our “*honourables*,” Now *that’s* one offense they might not tolerate!

¹ Unpublished letter to Editor of *24 Hours*, 11 Apr/2007 (1 p.).