

Eyewitness Testimony....Texas Style!

Alot of people base their perception of reality about the Criminal Justice System on fictionalized T.V. shows such as Law and Order or C.S.I. Then after watching episode after episode of these particular events, they formulate general perceptions as to how the public believes the Justice system actually is. Of Course, highly favorable prosecution spokespeople such as Nancy Grace only serve to confirm these misconceptions in the public consciousness. Add to that the media in general, who lightly covers wrongful convictions where a man is released after serving 20 plus years for a crime he didn't commit. (rarely do such stories last more than a day). On the flip side, when a guilty person such as OJ Simpson or the girl in Florida who killed her kid and beat the case tahst been in the news around five years straight now. (can't think of her name). Casey Anthony

But if your only source of information was the TV to learn and know about the 'Justice System', you would understandably leave with the impresion that ~~the~~ the bad guys are always winning, always getting off scot free. Reality, however, tells a different story. If that was the true reality, America would not have 1 out of every four prisoners incarcerated in ~~the~~ the world. But it does. Obviously everyone is not walking as the media likes to pretend.

Nor are all cops, prosecutors, and Judges morally scrupulous individuals dutifully upholding the law. Most of them break it routinely as a matter of practice.

One example: eyewitness testimony. I was reading a statistic the othe day, that of the 200 plus wrongful convictions that were proven false, 85% of those were confirmed with eyewitness testimony! 85%!

Now all these witnesses can't possibly just be 'wrong'. thats a pretty high percentage. Yet, when Juries hear a witness say "thats him!" they usually convict.

This has happened to me, and it pisses me off is why I know so much about it. But I have read and read so many legal cases out of the law library. And time after time, innumerable times, it has been found to be the case where a cop or group of cops suspected someone of committing a crime, but lacked the evidence o proceed further, and the witness was unable to identify them. So what happens? Not ~~the~~ Law and Order scenario where the crook walks. But over and over police officers have been shown to have coached witness and convinced them into picking out the guy they suspected, "so the bad guy dont hurt someone else!"

What gets me is this. This has been proven and the witnesses have even admitted it in several cases. It's all documented for the world to see and read about in any law library in the nation, yet you will never see it on

the news.

Even more disturbing is this: Never is the police officer prosecuted for violating the law. Never prosecuted for coaching a witness to bear false testimony to put away an innocent man. The man is lucky if he can later on prove this injustice and escape with his life!

Recently in Texas this issue was addressed. The solution that had been implemented in other states was to have another detective who was unfamiliar with the case and didn't know the guilty, or suspected, party to administer the Photo array viewing. That way he could not suggest to the witness which one to pick. Texas knew that this is a problem, so none of the District attorneys or judges objected statewide. Even the representatives approved. But at the last minute the Sherriffs unions arrived in Austin to protest the passage of this bill.

The reason? it would stifle their investigations! think about that. How would that possibly stifle investigations unless they deliberately intended to coach witnesses? It wouldn't. It can't.

So Texas continues empowering its officers to coach lying witnesses to convict the suspected.

I know cause this happened to me. Police originally suspected a man for committing the murder I sit in prison for. Sure enough, witnesses said he was their. they were sure. Signed sworn affidavits and all. Then he was cleared. Witness also said 2 others were there that were later cleared. then they said the gunman was 6'5 and 300 lbs, and picked out a man that met that description. Finally when police suspicion fell on me, (I'm 5'5" 150 lbs!), witnesses claimed they lied about all the rest and that I was the one! Amazing!

But juries believe it all! See the problem? Of course I'm bitter. People say the Arabs are Crazy. The Palestinians are crazy. Everybody screwed over by America is crazy, or they are just jealous of America's wealth. Those are all lies to make Americans feel comfortable. I know why they are pissed. It's cause in a democracy the people have the power to stop their government from doing this stuff to people. In a democracy, people can't claim ignorance or innocence for the actions of their government. In a democracy, the power of the government is derived from the people. So the best people in a democracy can claim is apathy, that they don't give a damn about who their government is screwing over, that as long as it's not them that they will say and do nothing to stop it. see the problem?

When American troops rape women and kids in Afganistan and Iraq or even in ally countries such as Japan (alot lately) the people of those nations rightly hold the American public responsible. When Washington arms Israel to attack unarmed civilians and seize palestinian territory, the Palestinians

rightly blame America. Why? cause if america was run on principle, then we could be reached with logic and reason, and basic Justice. We could be reached without the use of suicide bombers and hijackers.

The information is freely out there for anyone who will listen. But the ~~american~~ ^{American} public does not care about other peoples. and they blame us.

But pay attention. Cause the same thing is happening here. This government is destroying lives of us as well. There are now 7 million people in prison, jail, probation or parole. 7 million! God knows how many have been railroaded. Sure some will say mistakes are made. But coaching witnesses to knowingly and intentionally bear false testimony based merely on police 'suspicion' is no accident. Every corrupt decree from a judges bench and another American heart grows cold or turns to hate. There may be less bitterness if the public would show some decency and hold their leaders accountable. But barring that, we can only conclude, as with the Muslims, and others, that the American people just is too arrogant to give a damn what happens to us.

When the bombings begin to happen here, it will be too late. The time for justice is now. The time for a peaceful redress of legitimate grievances is rapidly drawing to a close. when that window of opportunity finally slams shut and people lose confidence in finding justice through corrupt judges and seek it instead with car bombs and assassinations...where will the arrogance be then? Will the American public just label everyone else as crazy? Are we crazy for wanting justice and the Constitutional Rights we were led to believe that we do have?

It probably won't matter. Nothing will stop the violence from spiraling out of control. Imagine if Iran or N. Korea, or any number of groups just start funneling arms into a legitimate group of dissidents fighting for justice. What then?

There will be no peace. America will turn from its corruption, or America will burn...and soon.