

HIGHWAY of JUSTICE ROADKILL

The United States' 21st century Justice System is the subject of a study: MASS INCARCERATION: THE WHOLE PIE 2025, conducted by the PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE (PPI) of Massachusetts, an esteemed NGO dedicated to legitimate reporting of Judicial/Penological practices within the United States.

PPI's findings are a somber reflection on these times of political and financial turmoil, when facts are easily disguised, or distorted, to appease biases. In reality the United States' rush to punish and incarcerate has 2 million people in some form of lock-up at an annual cost of \$180 billion. No other country in the world comes near to the United States solution, or failure, to abating crime.

Famed author John Grisham with co-author Jim McCloskey shed further light on reality in their book FRAMED, sharing shocking true stories on how the rush to judgement and prison packing litters the Highway of Justice with roadkills.

It is said "All that glitters isn't gold" and in the hard light of day we are finding our Judicial/Penological systems tarnished. Over two thousand years ago Roman Statesman Cicero warned "Extreme justice is extreme injustice." Today, John Grisham in FRAMED writes "...it is often said that it is much easier to convict an innocent person than to get one out of prison." When the steel grip of "justice" holds harmless old men to their death in prison; justice becomes injustice.

The average person will say "So what! They did the crime now do the time!" This average person doesn't consider the law of unintended consequences, however at \$180 billion a year 100% taxpayer supported, maybe it's time for the average taxpayer to realize they are being punished too.

In California the Legislative Analyst Office has reported it costs 2 to 3 times more than a younger prisoner (\$134K per yr) to incarcerate an old prisoner to death, which calculates to \$282K per elderly per yr. 100% taxpayer supported. This is expensive roadkill especially when forensic psychologists deem them harmless.

Beyond the no-brainer of wasting tax dollars punishing old men to death, time weary punishment/corrections is clearly not working. Einstein said "Insanity is doing the same thing over again expecting different results." We must be insane by evidence of today's prison populations and phenomenal costs. To illustrate financial potential, private prisons are parasites to behemoth government prisons, yet this secondary industry is listed on the N.Y. Stock Exchange. There are financially driven interests to keep the Penological system status quo. The Fox assures us "ALL CHICKENS ARE DANGEROUS!"

Contrary to self-serving interests there are advocates promoting true "Rehabilitation" (refer to essay SPARE THE ROD 9 September 2024). California passed a REHABILITATION Bill AB1104, in January 2024, however being in the belly of the beast it is yet to find its way into actual practice.

30 May 2025

Robert H. Outman

Prisoner P-79939

<http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/895/>

SOURCES

PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE

Calif. Legislative Analyst Office

Calif. Dept. of Finance

CDCR Offender Data Points

John Grisham FRAMED