

THE DEFICIT OF KNOWLEDGE
ABOUNDS IN REGARDS TO HOW TO
EVEN GET STARTED ON WORKING
ON ANY TYPE OF LEGAL CASE
AS FAR AS BASIC RESEARCH NOT
TO MENTION FILING MOTIONS OR
PETITIONS OR WRITING BRIEFS.

- Bart W.

Arkansas, March 2018

We must no longer identify with terms like "inmate" or "criminal". We are human beings. We are U.S. citizens. That is why I frequently use the term Incarcerated Citizen. We may be incarcerated, but we are still citizens of this country, and we do have rights. We must never forget that, and never be afraid to enforce those rights. When we begin to think of ourselves as incarcerated citizens instead of "offenders" we start to realize that the injustices we face on a daily basis are not normal, not warranted, not necessary, and not conducive to our rehabilitation and transformation. As incarcerated citizens we are aware of our rights as well as the codes and policies that govern the prison staff, and we hold them accountable for their violations, but most importantly, we hold ourselves accountable, and carry ourselves with an air of dignity and self-respect.

- Brandon T.

Texas, February 2019

Jailhouse Lawyers role is important as they help individuals to articulate and present their various issues and claims in a manner that allows for administration, courts, etc. to identify what the issue/problem/claim may be and provide for a coherent remedy.

- Christopher W.
California, August 2019

IN MAY OF 2019 I TRANSFERRED
HERE TO [REDACTED] STATE
PRISON. WELL ALL OF ~~MY~~ MY
HARD WORK SEEMS TO OF PAID
OFF BECAUSE AS OF 7-11-19 I WON
A INMATE APPEAL AND AM NOW
GOING THROUGH A NON-VIOLENT
EARLY PAROLE CONSIDERATION
PROCESS. SO MY JAILHOUSE LAWYER
DREAM HAS A EXCELLENT CHANCE
OF COMMING TO AN END IF I
AM PAROLED.

- Jason G.

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- Jason G.

California, August 2019

After 23 yrs. of fighting,
learning the law, helping
others along the way,
I'm tired and exhausted.

- Jason M.

Florida, September 2019

"Slavery By Another Name" game. When I first came to prison there was guys working in the law library that had a basic understanding in the intricacies of the law. However, lockdowns always prevented adequate access or lack of legal materials and updated books. As time went on CDCR (California Dept. of Corrupt Retaliation) started putting guys in the law library who had no experience and free staff who didnt either or acted as if they didnt. That led to ineffective pro se petitions and 1983 civil right suits. The pay rate for law library Clerks has never been fair. 18 cent a hour max 6.5 hours 5 days a week. That should be like (PIA) or better. Additionally, law library workers suppose to have by law Paralegal Cert. or legal experience. Especially when it comes to aiding mentally ill or uneducated inmates who cant read/write let a loan understand latin/legal words.

- Manuel S.

California, April 2019

I have been called "Jailhouse Lawyer" but prefer not to be referred to as a Lawyer. "I am studying to be a Paralegal" is what I tell people.

- Steven B.

Florida, February 2019

In the "valley shadow of death" is where my sentence commenced; the result of a jury's deliberation was hurled from the bench to announce, "you're hereby sentenced to death!" The year: 1985.

In spite of my mass confusion and psychiatric drug inducement for the purpose of grappling with my predicament, an interest to study law was birth under the influence of my desire to escape death row.

- Toby W.
Texas, 2019

I was in the SHU (Security Housing unit) I've been harassed by COs for being a jailhouse lawyer and helping people fight injustices that were occurring in there and currently fighting my own case where excessive force was used and I lost the use of my right eye, I'll be litigating this case for awhile. I believe we will have success in our endeavors, we just have to keep fighting and not get taxed when we get wins.

- Veronica W.
June, 2019

"9 LIVES" by Joshua G.

This is a story about 9 lives that should be free,e
9 lives taken by the Commonwealth and the DOC,
This system is corrupt, I know first-hand believe me,e
So listen to their story so now you can see.e

My big brother Hadi, strongest aqeedah I've ever known,e
He hustles candy so he can call his family on the phone,e
The courts gave him life and now he feels all alone,e
Inshallah keep up the fight, Allah will bring you home.e

My other big brother Tariq, 100 years is what he got,
They found him guilty of taking the life of a Philly cop,
He's got a son and a daughter who loves him a lot,
That's why he cries in sujud everytime he offers salat.e

My one homie Reg kept it real so they gave him the mandatory,e
He grew up a rough life with even a rougher story,
A rat took the stand and told lies to his jury,
He's an innocent man but the Judge still gave him 30.e

My oldhead Chris got 60 years but he's already 41,
He had 2 robbery convictions from when he was really young,e
He got convicted of his third, 3 strikes now he's done,e
Everywhere he goes, he carries a picture of his son.

My brother Thomas got 40 years for a string of robberies,e
He's trying fight his appeal and asks Allah for what he needs,
But the courts take all his money in fines and court fees,e
So how can he get a lawyer or even just pay for copies.e

My oldhead Alamo's a lifer so he keeps the block tight,e
Still remember the day I felt like I was stabbed with a knife,e
He trashed the whole block after he hung up with his wife,
Found out on the phone, someone took his daughter's life.e

My big homie Country use to laugh till his face turned red,
Got caught with some meth, 70 years is what the Judge said,
He became depressed so he just ate and laid in bed,
Ate himself into a heart attack, in his cell they found him dead.e

My homie Vinny broke his back at work trying pay his family's bills,
So the doctors gave him perks and a ton of oxy pills,e
Pills stopped working so he fell in love with how the dope feels,e
Can't support his family now, he killed his dealer and got wheels.e

My man Andell, my boy since daycare and show-n-tell,
I was on the streets when my homie first fell,
He couldn't afford a good lawyer, the courts said "Oh well",e
Public defender just pretended and they gave my boy an L.e

These are just a few people that I want you to see,
Where justice is never just and freedom is never free,e
I'mma make a real change, knowledge is the key,e
Someone needs to take a stand, that someone will be me.