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***Justice** - behavior to oneself or to another which is strictly in accord with currently accepted ethical law or as decreed by legal authority.*

***Truth** - The state or quality of being true, in agreement with fact.*

When one thinks of justice being served, we tend to believe that that means the truth prevailed. When we compare the definitions of these two words, we can see there is absolutely no correlation between these two concepts. In fact, the definition of justice explains a lot about what is happening in our judicial system these days.

Look at this definition: "in accord with currently accepted ethical law." Clearly, ethical law is not something that is written down anywhere. Ethical law is also qualified with the phrase 'currently accepted'. This clearly implies that ethical law is not constant, that the ethics which determine this law are constantly changing.

Let's look at today's 'ethical law' as practiced.

Our President's ethics have demonstrated that adultery is currently ethical if you don't get caught, and excusable if you do. That it is currently ethical to speak truthfully but not accurately under oath. That it is currently ethical to lie if you do it for a good reason. Hmm.

What about the courts, then? What 'currently accepted ethics' are practiced against the trusting residents of this great nation?

Well, prosecutors and defense lawyers spend a great deal of time involved in the court system. We imagine these folks as being in search for the truth as it pertains to a particular case. Yeah, right. Lawyers don't tend to confuse the relevant issue of the case with the truth. Their motivation is not the search for the truth, their motivation is to win the case. Regardless of the guilt of the accused, prosecutors diligently strive to get a conviction or to get the schmuck to cop a plea. In fact, even in a clear cut case with overwhelming evidence against the accused, they plea bargain the charges to a lesser offense.

This process against the guilty accused is offensive to my innate sense of justice since it allows them to get off with an easier punishment than they deserve. On the other hand, defense lawyers use plea bargains as an easy way to compromise a difficult case, despite representing an innocent client. The truth is not represented here.

Many judges put on a very pretty show about the search for truth, while practicing their own bias against the accused by failing to consider the truth. Most are less concerned for the truth than they are about their rulings being overturned by another judge. In their efforts to make their decisions look legitimate, they utilize procedural rules that are 'currently accepted ethical law' and other silly mechanisms as a means of circumventing the truth of the case. It is currently accepted as ethical to exclude evidence and testimony if it doesn't follow the rules 'as decreed by legal authority', the presentation of the truth be damned.

The police are ever on the prowl for the bad guy. To them, we are all potential bad guys. Are they searching for the truth when they come to your door? No, they're looking for a confession, an admission of guilt, an arrest. This is what looks good on their record - this is what motivates them.

Social workers who 'investigate' (I use that term loosely) child abuse are less interested in protecting children than they are in protecting their own jobs. Face it, if the public were aware that only 3% of all reported cases of child abuse involve actual injury to a child, they wouldn't

stand for the massive bureaucracy that supports this multi-billion dollar industry. Social workers MUST obtain admissions of guilt and disclosures of abuse to justify their jobs. If they were really interested in protecting children, then they wouldn't put abused children back in abusive homes.

This is our justice system today. If you're looking for justice, don't be confused by expecting the truth to prevail. It seems these two terms are mutually exclusive, at least under the currently accepted ethical standards practiced in society today. I used to believe in Truth, Justice, and the American Way. Silly me, now I get it.