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...But First, Let's Kill All the Lawyers

by Kippy Wroten

Lawyers have traditionally been fodder for social entertainment. Everyone knows a lawyer joke or can recite some "tale of woe" that describes the unfair victimization of an innocent at the hands of an unscrupulous lawyer. Recent events, however, have focused our societal microscope on a different face of evil. Perhaps this is an appropriate atmosphere in which to reflect on the system of justice that has for over two centuries distinguished Americans as a privileged people, both individually and as a community.

And justice for all

In this time it has been brought home to each of us what it means to be an American. Our national consciousness is etched every day with new pictures from foreign lands highlighting the plight of those subjected to the unbridled will of a powerful few. As Americans, we celebrate the rule of law over the subornation of a monarchy. We value the right to self-determination in defiance of a dictator. We aspire to respect different ideas and to promote creativity even when this celebration of the individual leaves us open to criticism. We expect to be treated fairly as we believe in justice for all. Yet, despite our inherited right to be treated justly, justice is not an automatic condition. It must be protected.

The great equalizer

In our system of law, retaining the right lawyer can be the great equalizer that balances the judicial footing of otherwise disparate advocates. As each of us strives to preserve our personal rights it is important to recognize

the power provided by a knowledgeable and skilled advocate. One size does not, however, fit all. The wise person exercises care to match the skills and expertise of the lawyer to the specific issue. Fine transactional lawyers may not prove successful as trial lawyers and vice versa. Preparing that "iron clad" document requires knowing what to include. Being "right" is only part of the equation when considering your options. Being "smart" is often more important.

A position of strength

Although a single picture may be worth a thousand words, it is important to remember that within those thousand words we are certain to find the contradictions that challenge reasonable minds.



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As such, your investment in skilled counsel should be deemed vital, not a luxury, in the face of legal hurdles. When subjected to yet another cocktail story relating the obvious failure of our legal system, question whether that failure was truly one of the system, or instead a failure of the individual to invest the time and effort necessary to effectively evaluate how best to proceed. When making choices for yourself, choose a position of strength by thoughtfully engaging your legal team.

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