

Injustice

Injustice and crime are closely related. Crime is a violation of the norms of good social behavior. Injustice is an inadequate or inappropriate manner of dealing with crime. (An example of injustice: a fraudster goes unpunished because he has contributed generously to the favorite charity of the wife of the judge who is overseeing his case. In that case the injustice works in favor of the bad guy. There are cases in which the injustice could act against the bad guy. That could happen if the bad guy, rendered vulnerable by his bad record, falls victim to prejudice promoted by the jury. In that case the bad guy would be deprived of the right to a fair trial. Depriving a bad guy of a fair trial is not justified by his badness. The law must be tirelessly careful in protecting the rights of those who project a shaggy or ill organized case for themselves.

Prejudicial Injustice of either sort—pro good guy or pro bad guy--distorts the law, which is intended to promote equity, the equity of the scales of justice. That equity is characterized in various ways. Justice is required to be blind, which means that law is on no one's side. If justice is said to be on no one's side does that mean that the law holds no one guilty, or does it simply mean that the law must show no prejudice either way, as to the guilt or innocence of a defendant?

The lack of prejudice of the law is a complex formula. We must absolutely rely on the law, but we must not make the law bend to us.