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The Lawyer's Obligation to Correct Social Injustice!

James F. Gill

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**THE LAWYER’S OBLIGATION TO CORRECT
SOCIAL INJUSTICE!
JUNE 20, 2011**

*James F. Gill**

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INTRODUCTION

On March 7, 2006, I delivered a speech here at Fordham Law School to an audience of students from all of the law schools in the New York metropolitan area.

On that occasion, I lamented that while the practice of law had been an honorable profession when I started practicing in the 1950s, it had become, by and large, just another “bottom line” business. That speech is set forth in chapter sixteen of my recent book entitled, *Rambling with Gill*.

Rambling with Gill is dedicated to my friend, the late B.J. Harrington, who overcame enormous physical handicaps that were the result of being hit by an automobile while a young man. Despite those injuries, he went on to become an extraordinary lawyer and the chairman of the distinguished law firm of Bleakley Platt & Schmidt.

* Mr. Gill graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1953 and from Fordham Law School in 1956 where he served as the Managing Director of the *Fordham Law Review*. Thereafter he served as a legal officer in the United States Marine Corps and later as an assistant district attorney of New York County under the late Frank S. Hogan. In 1964, Mr. Gill joined the firm of Robinson Silverman (now Bryan Cave) and remained with that firm to the present. He has served in numerous governmental positions and charitable institutions during his career and continues to do so.

But he was much more than that—he was going away the finest Catholic layman I ever encountered.

Among many other things, he led the way in supporting the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center which seeks out, cares for, and comforts the most disabled children in the New York metropolitan area. B.J. did all of this quietly and without any expectation of or interest in self-aggrandizement.

Through B.J. and because of my granddaughter, Gillian, the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center has become my favorite charity and all of the money which *Rambling with Gill* generates in any form will go to that center.

My 2006 speech received widespread attention in the United States and abroad, and the overwhelming reaction was agreement that such was the case. Since then, I believe the situation has become even worse!

The most recent evidence is the establishment of the so-called “permanent associate” class of lawyers who work substantially less hours than the traditional associate, but receive far less in salary and benefits than the traditional associate and have no chance of ever becoming a partner.

I pointed out in my 2006 speech that there were exceptions; that there were some lawyers and some firms that still practiced the law as it was practiced before the profession morphed into a “bottom line” business.

I also discussed the ingredients that go into the making of the “great” lawyer and urged my fledgling audience to embrace them, in the face of an ever-mounting obsession to make money.

The purpose of this evening’s speech is to supplement that earlier speech.

I believe that every lawyer, by virtue of the special training lawyers receive; the experiences they encounter in connection with the practice of law; the monopoly they enjoy in providing legal advice and appearing in our courts; and the enormous trust and confidence that society imposes upon them, have a duty and obligation to devote themselves in substantial measure, to correcting the many social injustices that exist in our society.

I am referring not just to lawyers who are judges, legislators or other public office holders but rather to *all* lawyers because *all* lawyers are duty bound to promote and protect *justice* in all areas and at every level of human conduct, no matter who they are or what they do. *All* lawyers, by definition, work “in the service of others.”

The obligation of lawyers to correct social injustice is not by any means, a recent development, but rather goes back to the beginnings of law-based societies.

Michael A. Cardozo, the Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, in a speech entitled, *Rebuilding the City: The Opportunity to Help and the Obligation to Serve* (delivered on January 26, 2003) said the following:

The obligation to help those less fortunate has always been a fundamental tenet of the legal profession. The early Roman Empire provided for "advisors to the poor." By the fifth century of the Common Era, clergy were mandated to provide legal counsel to those who lacked resources of their own. A fifteenth century statute of Henry VIII directed justices to appoint attorneys for poor people.

Down through the years, many lawyers in this country have recognized their obligations to deal with injustices in our society and have carried out those duties magnificently, to the everlasting credit of our profession.

Let's turn to some of those social injustices and some of our legal heroes who have addressed them.

I. SLAVERY AND RACIAL INJUSTICE

We have been beset with serious social injustices in this country from its beginning to the present day. One of the earliest and by far the most egregious was slavery, whereby African Americans were not regarded as human beings, but rather as chattels, to be bought, sold, and owned in accordance with that premise.

The basic reason for the imposition of slavery was *money*, generated by the cotton industry. The slaves who worked in that industry were paid little or nothing, thereby enabling cotton owners to realize huge profit margins.

That economic factor became a states' rights issue; the prospect of secession from the union emerged, and the bloodiest war in our history followed.

Even after the abolition of slavery, African Americans were treated as second class citizens and were abused and scorned, simply because they were black, a pure accident over which they had no control.

I will never forget my first visit to the Deep South in the summer of 1951, sixty years ago. I had joined a Marine Corps Officers program while attending Holy Cross College which required me to spend that

summer at the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina.

I boarded the train at the old Pennsylvania Station and was taken aback by what I experienced along the way — separate bathrooms and waiting rooms for blacks and whites at railroad stations; the word “nigger” becoming more and more prevalent as we went more deeply into the South; vendors treating African Americans *purchasing their merchandise* with disdain and sometimes refusing to deal with them at all.

While stationed at Parris Island, sometimes we were able to visit nearby towns like Beaufort, South Carolina and cities like Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia on weekends.

We witnessed firsthand conditions we had read and heard about, but never experienced. Public parks and schools were segregated. African Americans were not permitted to stay at hotels, eat at restaurants or lunch counters, and were required to ride in the backs of buses. There was an unspoken, but deeply seated, understanding that African Americans constituted a subclass in those communities which was universally accepted, even by the African Americans!

The end result was that African Americans lived in filth and squalor in shacks without proper food or basic medical attention, no education, and with only menial jobs, if any at all. It was appalling.

Nonetheless, I pursued the southern belles who lived in those areas with great vigor, but to no avail. Even my Marines Corps uniform was of no help. Finally, I attributed my abject failure to *vicious anti-Northern prejudice* and withdrew from the field. The problem is that I had the very same experience in the North.

From childhood, we studied the virtues of Abraham Lincoln, a great lawyer and a great president. Most historians rank him first among our presidents.

He was born into poverty and enjoyed precious little family support. He was physically unattractive, received little formal education, and was defeated in election after election until he won the presidency.

He was married all of his adult life to a woman who was mentally unstable and lost a son during his presidency. He was constantly beset with political foes with sharp knives.

Despite all of that, he preserved the Union and abolished slavery. Think of the magnitude of those accomplishments in the face of those obstacles!

There are those who criticize Lincoln because he placed preservation of the Union above the issue of slavery *during* the course of the Civil War.

Given the attendant facts and circumstances, I disagree. I believe that Lincoln was fully aware that *he had to win the war* if he was ever to abolish slavery in a meaningful way.

One of the aspects of Lincoln that I find fascinating is the fact that he became so incredibly adept at politics when he became president. I urge you to read *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Was Lincoln perfect? No, he was lousy at picking generals!

Thurgood Marshall was the finest civil rights lawyer in the history of our country. He was of the firm conviction that *integration* above all else was the key to equal rights and he overturned the “separate but equal” apartheid that existed in this country well into the last century.

He took thirty-five cases to the Supreme Court of the United States and won thirty-two of them, including *Brown v. Board of Education* which ended separation of black and white children in public schools and ignited the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Attorney General Robert Kennedy supported that movement tirelessly and his speech following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. is a national treasure. Here is what he said, in part, on that horrifying day:

What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness; but love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or they be black.

So I shall ask you tonight to return home, to say a prayer for the family of Martin Luther King, but more importantly to say a prayer for our own country, which all of us love—a prayer for understanding and that compassion of which I spoke.

Incidentally, our own Jim Tolan was with Robert Kennedy when he made those remarks.

In 1967, Thurgood Marshall became the first African American to serve as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Morris Dees founded the Southern Poverty Law Center, which fought against racial discrimination and hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the United Klans of America, and the White Aryan Resistance, for decades with enormous success.

Following the lynching of an African American in Mobile, Alabama in 1981, Dees and the Southern Poverty Law Center sued the Ku Klux Klan for inciting violence and won a \$7 million precedent setting judgment. In 1998, Dees won a \$37.8 million verdict against the Ku Klux Klan for the burning of a Macedonia Baptist Church in South Carolina.

A short time ago, Dees reported that the number of hate groups in this country had increased by fifty-four percent.

Great progress has been made as to racial discrimination against African Americans, particularly with the election of President Barack Obama. But we must remain vigilant.

I also believe that much more must be done to assist Native Americans and Hispanics who have lagged because of language difficulties and because they have not been as fortunate as other groups in terms of advocates and champions.

II. IMMIGRANTS AND ETHNIC INJUSTICE

Other types of social injustices emerged from the latter part of the nineteenth century through the early part of the twentieth century, as waves of immigrants—the Irish, Italians, Jews, Poles, Czecks, Hungarians, Greeks, Germans and others—flocked to this country, each with their own languages, histories, customs, traditions, religious beliefs, and hopes. While some melded together, deep seated anger and resentment cropped up between and among the various groups of immigrants, frequently over jobs. The Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups fanned those flames of anger and resentment and prejudices developed.

Here in New York, slums without indoor plumbing and without sufficient light or air developed, such as those available now for viewing at the Tenement Museum at Orchard Street on the Lower East Side. With ever increasing immigration, jobs became more and more difficult to find. Gang wars among various ethnic groups became common.

New York was without a sewage system and one of the filthiest cities in the world. Garbage and human waste were dumped into the streets. Disease and pestilence broke out regularly, killing thousands. It was awful, and thousands of immigrants and their descendants were in a constant state of wrongful depredation and despair.

While commonality is a soothing ingredient in settling differences, I believe that humor is the most potent elixir for even the most serious problems. If differing factions can laugh together about their dif-

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ferences, the problems are well on the way to ultimate resolution. Allow me to give you an example of the type of humor I have in mind.

I was the speaker at the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick held on March 17, 1992. The dinner was attended by my law partner, former Mayor Ed Koch, and John Cardinal O'Connor. This, in part, is what I said and I quote:

By and large, the Irish in America have always gotten on well with the Jews and the Blacks. And that's because they have so much in common. The Jews and the Blacks have been subjected to persecution, discrimination, and misery, and so have the Irish . . .

But I suspect that the main reason that the Irish enjoy positive relationships with the Jews and the Blacks is the fact that they have been *so busy denigrating and vilifying the Italians, that they just haven't had time for the Jews or the Blacks.*

The quote continues as follows:

But what best epitomizes the closeness of the relationship between the Irish and the Jews is the relationship between John Cardinal O'Connor and my law partner and friend, Ed Koch.

When Ed was Mayor, they worked closely and well. They wrote a book together. They dined together regularly and continue to do so. They are the closest of friends.

Friendly Sons, I can tell you within the strict confines of this room that a development of significance has resulted from that relationship. It is a matter of religious consequence.

It is a matter which may well have profound international implications, particularly in the Middle East. It is a matter so sensitive that the Cardinal has kept it "in *pectore*" for the last nine months.

Of course, I am referring to the imminent conversion of Cardinal O'Connor to Judaism . . .

And then without looking at Cardinal O'Connor who was seated next to me, I added, "Is he smiling?" I love it when I quote myself.

While vestiges of ethnic prejudice still remain, I think that by and large, it's over. Only the most abysmally ignorant among us would suggest in a serious vein, any of the tired old ethnic bromides—i.e., "all Irishmen are drunks," "all Italians are Mafioso," "all Poles are stupid," or "all Germans are Nazis," "all Jews are tightwads."

However, the claim that "all Frenchmen are tax dodgers" *is another matter altogether and bears very close scrutiny.*

Religious discrimination, however, against Jews, Catholics and Muslims persists.

The anti-Catholic sentiment in large measure is due to a failure on the part of certain misguided Catholic prelates to take appropriate and effective action against priests who had sexually abused boys.

The anti-Muslim sentiment is due in substantial part to a failure by Muslim leaders to condemn terrorist acts on the part of Muslims.

Why anti-Semitism continues unabated, generation after generation, eludes me. Not only is it patently wrong, but has resulted in the worst atrocities man has ever visited upon man.

There is a lot to be done here and lawyers have a special obligation to do it.

III. LABOR INJUSTICE

Major industrial progress began in the United States in the nineteenth century, during which time the “robber barons” such as John Jacob Astor (real estate), Andrew Carnegie (steel), Jay Gould (railroads), J.P. Morgan and Andrew Mellon (finance), John D. Rockefeller (oil) and numerous others, reigned supreme. There was precious little by way of business taxes, no antitrust laws, few governmental regulations, a dearth of labor laws and enormous anti-union sentiment and opposition! The fortunes amassed during those days never have been and never will be equaled. Nor will the injustices visited upon workers, especially women and children.

The 1900 census reported that 1.75 million children between ages of ten to fifteen were employed, which constituted six percent of the work force.

In 1922, 146 immigrant women, many of them children, all working under sweat shop conditions, were killed in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in lower Manhattan.

My father was a life-long member of the Machinist Workers Union and the shop steward at Scovill Manufacturing Company in Waterbury, Connecticut, where I grew up.

He put me through Holy Cross College and Fordham Law School on his hard earned union wages. He posted my grades on the union bulletin board at Scovill which was a powerful incentive to which I responded. I learned the importance and value of unionism at his feet.

In 1989, Dean John D. Feerick presented me with Fordham Law School’s Medal of Achievement. During his remarks, he said that he had examined my file while preparing for his presentation, and came across a note which my father had sent to the Law school in 1953, enclosing a \$50 deposit in the form of a money order.

The note scratched out in longhand asked, “*What do I get for my 50 bucks?*”

After a tour of duty as a legal officer in the Marine Corp and six years as an Assistant District Attorney of New York County under the legendary District Attorney of New York County, Frank Hogan, I joined the law firm I am still with today, in order to represent unions.

As a young lawyer, I represented unions in the printing and the furniture industries and walked picket lines at plants in Mississippi and South Carolina where employees were paid the minimum wages required by federal law and received nothing else whatever by way of compensation.

I also represented the Farm Workers pro bono when Caesar Chavez, one of my heroes, conducted a nation-wide boycott of grapes, lettuce and Gallo wine, and when his union came under attack by the California growers and the Teamsters Union.

I know about unionism up close and its vital importance. An employee who goes “head to head” with an employer has no bargaining power whatsoever and must take whatever that employer offers. Every employer I ever encountered was of the view that he was overly generous with his employees regardless of clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.

The only way workers can better their own lots and advance the prospects of their children, is through organizing, and collective bargaining with the right to withhold services and thereby close down an operation, if necessary, to obtain a living wage and fair and proper working conditions. Those rights have been largely illusory over the years.

But organized labor suffers in other ways. Unfortunately, the only labor leaders we hear about are the crooks like Jimmy Hoffa, while those who devote their lives to advancing workers’ rights go unnoticed. More recently, certain public employee unions have harmed the union movement by excesses and abuses in the pension area and rules that are protective of incompetent teachers and harmful to students.

While extensive reforms followed the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire and unions made considerable advances during the thirties and forties, the overall picture today is bleak. At one time, organized labor represented thirty-five percent of the workers in the United States. Today it represents thirteen percent of our work force, seven percent of which are members of municipal unions.

I cannot understand why so few young people become involved in the union movement when it has the potential of affecting so many people in such a meaningful and desirable way. And yet, they flock to a host of lesser causes.

The other anomaly which puzzles me is the apparent hostile tension that exists between elements of the Catholic Church and organized labor. The encyclicals, *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno*, specifically call for all of organized labor's basic tenants—i.e., the right to a living wage, the right to organize, the right to bargain collectively, and the right to withhold services. The Feerick Center at Fordham Law School has published a document written by Bishop William Murphy, the Bishop of Rockville Centre, John Sweeney, the former President of the American Federation of Labor and Dennis Rivera of the Hospital Workers, which effectively debunks any basis for such antipathy and provides a blueprint for improved relationships going forward.

Representing workers is a great cause. I've been there. By and large, you deal with genuine people with no agendas or pretexts. You work with people who deeply appreciate what you do for them. You derive great satisfaction and have enormous fun in the doing. Try it. You will like it!

IV. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

When I was growing up, a woman's role in society was dramatically different than it is today.

They were the "fair" sex, respected and revered by the male of the species. When a man greeted a woman on the street, he would tip his hat; when a man and a woman walked along a sidewalk side by side, the man walked on the street side of the sidewalk as a protective measure; the man always held the door for a woman entering a building, a room or a vehicle; when riding on an elevator with a woman, a man always removed his hat; a man gave up his seat on a bus to a woman and women were frequently addressed as "Ma'am."

Women ran the household; they cooked, cleaned, did the laundry and raised the children. Few worked and those who did were usually single. Education-wise, few women went beyond high school. Sex of a serious nature outside of marriage was a rarity and women who engaged in it, if discovered, were held in the lowest regard. Divorce was anathema. Women never ran for public office.

In retrospect, it is startling to me that women did not get the right to vote in this country until 1920 and that other fundamental and basic rights did not follow until the 1960s.

Today, a very substantial percentage of the workforce in this country are women and the same is true of the number of women attending our educational institutions at every level.

Every day, more and more women are moving into politics, managerial positions, and commencing their own businesses. Laws have been passed to prevent discrimination in hiring and advancement and against ravages of sexual harassment.

It is now common for both parents in a family to work during the day and share household chores and the rearing and education of children.

Over the years, I have had the good fortune of working closely with numerous highly talented and enormously gifted women. As a result of those experiences and as a matter of simple justice, I am of the view that all women should have all of the rights men enjoy and to the same degree.

The women with whom I worked include Jennifer Cunningham, who served as the Deputy Executive Director of the Joint Commission on Integrity in the Public Schools *when she was a law student*; Anastasia Song, who served as Executive Director of the Long Island Power Authority; Sandy Altman, who served as General Counsel to Battery Park City Authority; and Joan Spero, who served as president of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation all of which were entities I chaired while those women were so employed.

My daughter, Rose Gill Hearn, who is the Commissioner of Investigation of the City of New York, influenced me greatly as well, simply by what she does and how she does it.

I am also of the view that all of the courtesies women have enjoyed, heretofore should be continued. You can't teach an old dog new tricks and I continue to extend those courtesies despite the fact that one woman chided me for doing so, claiming that it was demeaning and an insult. Even the best of causes have their "wackos," a word coined by Ed Koch!

One final note. Winston Churchill and Lady Astor did not get on well as clearly illustrated by the following exchange.

Lady Astor said, "Mr. Prime Minister, if I were married to you, I would put poison in your coffee." Churchill's response "Madame, if I were married to you, I would drink it."

On another occasion, Lady Astor said, “Mr. Prime Minister, I’m told that if we were to pour all of the brandy you have drunk into this room, it would be half full,” to which Churchill responded, “[Y]es, Madame. A great deal has been accomplished but *there’s so much more to do*” — and so, *it is with women’s rights — there’s so much more to do!*

V. HELPING THE POOR

Every day in New York City, thousands of poor families with young children seek shelter, housing, food, medical attention, and psychiatric help. For many years, the City of New York made an effort to meet those needs and used the Emergency Assistance Unit (EAU) in the Bronx as a point of entry for all applicants.

But horrendous conditions at the EAU gave rise to numerous long and bitter lawsuits, pitting applicants represented by the Legal Aid Society against the City of New York.

The EAU facility was far too small to accommodate the families seeking assistance, and accordingly, it was woefully overcrowded and indeed unsanitary. Bathroom facilities were inadequate and filthy. There was no space where families could put their belongings, which they carried with them, and there were no rooms for private conferences.

Processing of applicants sometimes took days, with families sleeping in chairs and on the floor of the EAU.

Applicants were treated without respect or even common courtesy and decisions made by EAU personnel were frequently arbitrary and never subject to review.

Finally, on January 17, 2003, the parties to a number of lawsuits involving these issues entered into an agreement which established the Family Homelessness Special Master Panel to deal with the problems at the EAU. The Panel was made up of Professor John D. Feerick, Daniel Kronenfeld, and Gail B. Nayowith.

Later that year, the Panel, assisted by its counsel Dora Galacatos, filed a report making recommendations to correct the nightmare that existed at the EAU. For *years* thereafter, the Panel, working with Steve Banks of the Legal Aid Society and Commissioner Linda Gibbs of the New York City Department of Homeless Services, not only addressed the shortcomings and inequities of the EAU, but agreed upon a homelessness prevention program as well.

Finally, on May 3, 2011, a new center named Prevention, Assistance and Temporary Housing (PATH) opened its doors at 151 East

151st Street in the Bronx. It is more than twice the size of its predecessor, the EAU, and will house more than 200 various professionals to serve homeless families and pregnant women twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It is state of the art in all respects! Gail Nayowith wept with joy when she saw it.

Does that mean all of the problems of poor families with young children are solved? Not by a long shot. But great progress has been made and those lawyers and others who were involved will have the lifelong satisfaction of knowing that they made a meaningful contribution to helping others in need. That's something no amount of money can buy.

VI. CARING FOR THE SICK

Dennis Lynch is the senior partner of a law firm in South Nyack, New York, who became friends with a priest in his parish by the name of Joseph Dunfeh. Father Dunfeh is from Ghana in West Africa and told Dennis about the medical plight of those living in his native village.

For years, lack of safe drinking water resulted in widespread diseases and deaths; others died regularly from a total lack of the most basic and fundamental medical attention. They literally had *nothing* by way of medical supplies.

Dennis took it upon himself to lend assistance and galvanized a group of lawyers and others in his area to raise money in a variety of ways to provide medical relief.

Among the lawyers who joined in that effort were B.J. Harrington, John D. Feerick, and Dennis Kenny.

The first result was the sinking of the two wells, which provided safe drinking water.

A year ago, the St. Mathew Poly Clinic was dedicated and will soon be completed. Among other things, it will house a surgical wing, a pharmaceutical wing, and a maternity wing which will be named in honor of B.J. Harrington.

VII. INJUSTICE IN OUR PRISONS

Last month the Supreme Court of the United States in a five-to-four decision, in the case of *Brown v. Plata*, found that conditions in California's overcrowded prisons violated the Eighth Amendment banning cruel and unusual punishment and ordered the state to reduce its prison population by 30,000 inmates.

The Court found that the prison system failed to deliver minimal care to prisoners with serious medical and mental health problems and produced “needless suffering and death.”

While this may be an extreme case, it points to injustices in our prison systems that cry out for correction.

Those injustices come about, in large measure because the victims are prisoners who have been convicted of crimes and are, therefore, looked down upon by society, and because governments are not disposed to spending scarce tax dollars on such persons.

Prisons are an important and integral part of our legal system, and it is the special duty and obligation of lawyers to see to it that inmates are treated fairly, decently, and humanely.

I believe that the Corporal Works of Mercy have universal application. The sixth Corporal Work of Mercy is to “visit those in prison” and involves much more than mere visitation.

The late Paul Curran was one of my oldest and dearest friends. Professionally, he was best known as a fearless, highly effective, and honorable criminal investigator and prosecutor. Governor Rockefeller appointed him Chairman of the New York State Commission of Investigation, and President Nixon appointed him as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell appointed him as a special counsel to investigate loans made to a peanut farm owned by President Jimmy Carter. He served magnificently in all of those posts and was properly acclaimed for having done so.

But what is little known about Paul is his deep concern about prisoners’ civil and human rights. In 1987, he became the Chairman of Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York (PLS) and held that post until his death in 2008 — more than twenty years of pro bono service.

The mission of PLS is to “provide high quality, effective legal representation and assistance to indigent prisoners, to help them to secure their civil and human rights, and to advocate for humane prisons and a more humane criminal justice system.”

Not only did he lead PLS, but he supported it financially from time to time out of his own pocket and got others to do the same, including myself by the way. Many credit PLS in large measure for riot avoidance, and I believe properly so.

Could PLS use the assistance of volunteer lawyers? I will answer that question by pointing out that presently, PLS is operating four regional offices with twelve attorneys and six paralegals and providing

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services to the 60,000 inmates confined in seventy New York State prisons.

Paul Curran devoted an enormous amount of his professional career to public service and pro bono work to assist persons in need. He was also financially successful. I fully acknowledge and appreciate financial needs and family obligations. I am simply saying that *for a lawyer*, making money is not the *only* thing, *nor is it the most important thing*.

CONCLUSION

In closing, I would urge you to seek out opportunities to answer the call. It is your obligation to do so and in the doing, you will help restore the reputation of a great profession!

Thank you for your attention.