

You Only Think You've Got Rights

No Attorney-Client Privilege (Part VIII)

by Edgar J. Steele

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I like to say that, while we never want to repeat boot camp, always we are glad to have had the experience. Jail is (way) different. Never will I say that I am glad I spent this time in jail. Perhaps a week or two in jail, at most, would be instructive for many of us, but extended imprisonment simply exacts too great a personal toll to justify the lessons it teaches.

The Real Cost of Imprisonment

Don't Do the Crime if you Can't Do the Time?

No. Don't do the crime, to be sure, but "serving" time simply makes no sense for, perhaps, 95% of all current prisoners in America. Serving time creates massive unemployment (ex-convicts are unemployable), turns ordinary people into "nothing to lose" criminals, hardens petty truants and mischief-makers into genuinely dangerous criminals, fuels the exploding use of drugs throughout America and costs an ever-exploding share of federal, state and local budgets (America's prison population has *tripled* during the last two decades).

Nor is the cost restricted to government. The War on Drugs inexorably becomes a war on Americans, with drug users criminally seeking money for their habits and law enforcement officers desperately trying to advance themselves and their departmental funding. America's prison *industry* (yes, that is *exactly* what American jails and prisons have become) now is a huge slaving, self-sustaining beast, out of control and growing ever-faster as its *product* (discontent, resentment, rebellion and hopelessness) increasingly provide its own raw material (ordinary people-*cum*-criminals).

The Criminalization of Innocence

Worse, even ignoring those jailed for victimless "crimes" (drug users, tax avoiders/evaders, *etc.*), a huge and growing segment of America's prison population consists of *people who are innocent!* How could it be otherwise, after all, with the Fed's 97% conviction rate and a *tripling* of American prisoners in just 20 years?

I have been telling you how they're doing it to me. I face 60 years, *minimum*, for a crime I did not commit; a crime with *no victim, no damage* and the self-confessed perp already serving his 2-year sentence (a slap on the wrist in exchange for his false testimony against me). No - actually, there *was* some damage: \$45,000 in silver bullion stolen by the perp from my wife (the victim) and myself.

From the beginning, my wife (the "victim," don't forget) resolutely has stood by my side, proclaiming my innocence to the world, despite the massive federal effort to put me away for the rest of my life.

60 Years!

Murderers routinely are released from prison after serving 6-8 years, but no less than *60 years* is what our government says *I* deserve for the (non) "crime" I committed against *nobody*, least of all my biggest supporter: *my wife*. *60 years!* Think about it for a moment.

What's more, the government repeatedly has lied, cheated and stolen during its scorched-earth campaign against me, a genuine American political dissident. There are *so many* stories of government treachery in my case that I could tell you (not to mention many other cases I have handled, mostly *pro bono*, during my 30-year career as a trial lawyer).

How They Do It

In the last 7 weekly installments, I have been serializing part of a chapter from my upcoming book, *Evil Edgar*. I have told you precisely how the feds and the judge illegally, unethically and unconstitutionally have denied me the right to confidential communications with my attorneys, while using the information they illegally obtained by eavesdropping *against me* - before, during and after my trial.

Of All Things, a Writ Petition

With the deck totally stacked against me, I feel like a drowning man, going down for the third time. Desperate times call for desperate measures, so I have just unleashed the "Hail Mary" of all legal maneuvers. This past week, I filed a Petition for Writ with the U.S. Supreme Court, highest court in America.

U.S. Supreme Court Writ petitions almost *never* are granted, I was taught over 30 years ago in law school. I recall the image conjured by my law professor then, of a mail-room clerk stamping "Rejected" on all the just-opened envelopes holding Writ petitions.

What else can I do? The very same Federal District Court judge who refused to allow me to put on any sort of defense at trial now is bent upon denying me confidential access to any appellate attorneys to help me with my appeal, due out in 3 weeks.

My combined Petition for Writs of Mandamus (tell 'em to *do* something, Supremes) and Prohibition (tell 'em to *stop* doing something else) concerns *only* the topic of the last

seven installments: the illegal invasion and denial of my 5th and 6th Amendment right to *confidential* "assistance of counsel."

Predictably, my petition for writ is a substantial legal filing. Go [here](#) for a copy of the Writ petition. Go [here](#) for a 23-page, plain language, synopsis of the governmental wrongdoing that led me to file this petition.

What I Want

Here, in brief, are what I ask from the U.S. Supreme Court via my just-filed petition:

1. *Writ of Prohibition* - Order this trial court (others, too) to stop enforcing the unwritten U.S. Marshals Service policy that allows the Feds to eavesdrop, record and copy *all* communications (written, telephonic and in-person) between federal detainees and their private (as well as "of record") lawyers.
2. *Writ of Mandamus* - Order the outright dismissal of my case or, in the alternative, a new (and, hopefully this time a *fair*) trial, because of the extensive governmental and judicial misconduct that has taken place.

You Can Help

Please help in drawing attention to my Petition for Writs, thereby enhancing the chance that the Supremes will agree to schedule it for hearing. Go [here](#) for a letter to supporters describing how to join our letter-writing campaign to the Supreme Court justices, Presidential candidates, congressional leaders and mass media outlets.

Let's face it - since they have eliminated virtually all of the "Movement" leaders and now are imprisoning Movement lawyers, too, *just who do you suppose will be there to help when the Feds come for you?*

If we can just get the U.S. Supreme Court to hear my Petition, then it *certainly* will grant it. That would make a *huge* difference to thousands of federal detainees, both now and going forward. We would strike a genuinely history-making blow for liberty in our time.

I still wouldn't be able to say I am glad to have spent all this time in jail, but I *would* be proud of the outcome. *Very* proud.

Together

Together, we can do this.

Together, we can make a difference.

Together, we can strike a blow that, just maybe, will begin America's march back from the very precipice of outright, full-blown tyranny.

Join us.

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