

FOR THE MECKLENBURG TIMES - LAW DAY ISSUE

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It is important for all of us to understand that the law is a tool of justice used not only in the highest legal courts in the land but in every aspect of our day-to-day lives. Laws vary from those devised by man himself to natural law which governs man's basic instincts and inherent rights, unassailable and inalienable. To fully realize justice in the true sense of the word, we, as imperfect humans, have found it necessary to set forth rules, or laws, to control unhealthy desires and draw the bounds for actions which might violate the peace or cause injury to persons or property. In other words, laws were established for the protection of society, for the protection and welfare of us as individuals; the law does not work against us, but rather, it works with us and for us.

It is a common fallacy on our part to believe that the law watches our actions like a hawk might survey possible prey; however, the law is not a predator, but a protector. It is through the law that we may obtain

justice, for what is justice but the product of that law, be it natural or civil.

Justice is the end result achieved by putting the law to work. What would justice be without law and, most importantly, what would law be without justice? Law without justice is tyranny. We are fortunate to live in a land where law and justice go hand in hand; they are partners in our exciting democratic undertaking and are bound together by the common needs of our society. The highest aspiration of every citizen for his country is that it should never be necessary to talk about law and justice as if they were two different things.

Democracy's very existence requires that the machinery of law enforcement be a partner in assuring every citizen impartial and fair justice, for nothing rankles more in the human heart than a brooding sense of injustice. Certainly, whenever we correct an injustice we further the ideals of a democracy and give new strength to the democratic fiber of our nation.

We in the United States are noted for our sensitivity to oppression and injustice. Our nation was founded out of desire to escape these very things in the old world.

So it is not surprising that Americans view individual injustices as a threat to the whole and constantly seek ways to eliminate them through more effective laws.

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