

Dear Legislator,

Since 1989 there have been 340 exonerations in the United States: Undoubtedly, the actual number of these who have been wrongfully convicted is much, much higher.

Since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, 1,000 have been executed and 121 have been freed from death row after being found factually innocent. This means that for every 9 persons executed, at least one is innocent. This greater than 10% error rate is unconscionable- and these numbers only reflect death sentences where far greater legal scrutiny is afforded. How can a nation that supposedly champions freedom allow this to happen? How can society tolerate such an error rate? What do you suppose IBM or Southwest Airlines tolerates as an error rate? Is an individual's freedom less important than business machines or airline safety??

It is reported that more than half of the 623,000 inmates in municipal or county jails are innocent of the crimes they are accused of. Does anyone really believe the police are so accurate and efficient that 97% out of 100 indicted are guilty?

Some of the factors that contribute to this injustice;

- In California, Public Defense Counsels are allocated \$60.90 for every \$100 the prosecution receives
- Recently, a study was published reviewing criminal convictions that were vacated because DNA evidence found the persons factually innocent.
- 63% of the cases featured errors of forensic science
- 44% involved police misconduct
- 71% contained erroneous eye witness accounts

Time after time juries believe "expert witnesses" who are wrong or lying or both.

The criminal justice system is unjust and unaccountable. It serves the ambitions of the prosecutors and tramples over innocent citizens.

Will **you** challenge the bureaucratic CDCR and the self-serving CCPOA...