

The Center for Returning Citizens

The Innocent are Imprisoned – Campaign

TCRC's Fundamental Fairness Initiative (FFI) is comprised of Returning Citizens and community volunteers who have researched, personally experienced or witnessed abuse in correctional facilities. One of the most critical concerns of this initiative is to assist those imprisoned with grave emotional or mental disorders who, although protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), failed to receive a diagnostic evaluation which is a primary factor in judicially determining the nature of the trial and terms and conditions of incarceration.

Military veterans who have Post Traumatic Stress Disorders due to combat-related experiences are just one of the significant issues the FFI is interested in addressing. Imprisoned citizens who are mentally ill deserve the greatest protections under the law and the courts are under oath and commissioned to act yet often fall short of this duty. It is common for the courts to appoint an incompetent, uninformed and uncaring attorney who overlooks or disregards his client's standing under the ADA and right to treatment.

Most of these disabled citizens are not diagnosed until after trial and sentencing has concluded by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) which often assigns diagnostic classification responsibility to persons who lack the necessary credentials in behavioral sciences to legally make clinical assessments. Withholding a clinical diagnosis until after the criminal trial has concluded clearly deprives the citizen of the ability to mount a formidable defense; access mitigating evidence; receive a fair trial, a fair sentence or in the alternative outpatient treatment thereby avoiding the need for punitive incarceration.

The FFI is prepared to litigate this issue in court on behalf of those incarcerated, their families and those against the system of mass incarceration.

If any of the aforesaid injustices concern you, this is the time to get involved and support civil litigation of this issue.

For all inquiries contact: Fundamental Fairness Initiative (FFI)

Or to send an online contribution or a check or money order >> [CLICK HERE](#)

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