Of “Honourable” Judges

Citizens are getting more and more outraged as they watch our wise men play their
games, make their big money and have fun undermining the whole idea of justice, all the
while giving the finger to the people.

One of the common complaints is that our “honourables” with their skewed sense of
“justice” are far removed from the people. They are as haughty as the Liberals who
appointed many of them. Only yesterday Paul Williamson of the BC Supreme Court at
length tried to convince high school students how close he is to the people. A student
asked, “What do you think about Law and Order? According to Ian Mulgrew of the VS,
Williamson responded: “What’s that?”—completely “without a whiff of irony”! Comments Mulgrew, “You could see the look of puzzlement sweep across the eager
faces.”

If imprisonment often fails to express the justice society demands, is it not about time our
professional “honourables” begin to think out of their box that must be well over a
century old. Give some leadership in new directions that satisfy the people’s demands
for justice? (I know, it’s not for everyone to upset the machine that feeds you so well.)
How about military-like boot camps to teach civil values like respect for self and others,
work, honesty, community? Six months or more of strenous training in such an
environment is something worth considering. I so propose.

I have been watching these trends for some years and have collected a hefty file of the
juicy stories that appear almost daily. The range of thoughts and emotions I regularly
experience include those of a deep sense of insult, almost vicious resentment and
something akin to total contempt of…. Oops, I’m close to a crime that deeply offends
our “honourables,” Now that’s one offense they might not tolerate!

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1 Unpublished letter to Editor of 24 Hours, 11 Apr/2007 (1 p.).