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STATE BAR “PLEASANTVILLE”

Just a few years ago, there was a movie released called “Pleasantville.” The movie is about two teenage kids living in the 1990s who are transported into a television show from the 1950s called “Pleasantville.” The TV show into which they are transported depicts what is supposed to be the perfect American family in the perfect American town. Husband, wife, son, and daughter living in a town where everybody is happy all the time and everyone always gets along. When they are first transported, everyone and everything in the town is in black and white, without any colors, as one would expect in a television show from the 1950s.

The teenagers, being from the 1990s ultimately change things immensely in the town. As they teach the people of the town to develop and discover their passions, the people develop skin tones, and things around them such as flowers and automobiles develop colors. Certain people of the town however, don’t like the changes that are occurring and view the teenagers as a social threat to the “pleasant,” “civil” and respectful atmosphere that previously existed, where everyone is always nice and happy. Significant friction between those citizens of passion and the ones that wish to retain the status quo, ultimately erupts into violence. It quickly becomes apparent that beneath the “civility,” and “pleasantness” of those opposing any type of change, are deeply rooted feelings of hatred and ruthlessness.

The movie reminds me of how State Bars regulate the nation’s legal profession. As you read through this book, it will become readily apparent that the State Bars are continually stressing the need for civility, respect, good moral character, professionalism and honesty. They want all the lawyers to get along with each other, so that everything is “nice” and “civil.” Anyone however, who questions the manner in which they proceed, is quickly, severely and ruthlessly punished. Any lawyer who zealously and bravely litigates like a true fighter is falsely deemed to be uncivil or unprofessional. Their favorite phrase for such lawyers is that they engaged in “conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.” The point is that the State Bars are wholly unconcerned about whether a lawyer fails to zealously represent a client, so long as that lawyer fosters the economic interests of the profession.

The same Judges and lawyers who insist on “civility” and “professionalism,” will not hesitate to deprive a litigant of their constitutional rights thereby causing an innocent person to be put in prison. They will not hesitate to allow a guilty person go free notwithstanding the pain and anguish caused to a victim, if it furthers the economic interests of the legal profession. Their focus in every case is not on victim’s rights, defendant’s rights, women’s rights, men’s rights or children’s rights. Rather, their focus in each case is how any particular issue affects the State Bar’s power and economic interests.

Beneath the Puritan-like, inflexible State Bar disingenuous labels of “good moral character,” “honesty,” “civility,” “professionalism,” and “truthfulness,” is a deep hatred, coldness, and dispassionate lack of a true concern for the quality of representation given to litigants. Essentially, the concept is to let the litigants lose their homes, children, freedom, and possessions, so long as the cohesive unity of the legal profession is maintained, by fostering an irrational definition of what constitutes professionalism,” “civility” and “good moral character.” It’s a State Bar Pleasantville.