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## **‘Gender justice’ gets more medieval**

### *Judicial bias creates hostility toward open, honest dialogue*

Last summer, a group of Colorado district attorneys put their names to a letter that was printed widely in state newspapers. The letter lambasted a commentary that questioned both the accuracy and collection of sexual assault statistics. The guest essay appeared July 22, 2003, in the *Rocky Mountain News* following the arrest of Kobe Bryant.

The commentary raised numerous questions about the accuracy and collection of sexual assault statistics. But rather than a reasoned, considered debate, the district attorneys sought to discredit the writer and ignore the legal concerns raised.

It was disturbing to see district attorneys *en masse* portray “facts” in an *über alles* manner. A free and constitutional society relies on open, honest dialogue — especially at the judicial level. Today’s “gender justice” zealots use women and children to justify male hardship and sacrifice — a trend pervasive throughout the new millennia and one sorely in need of reform.

In their letter, DA’s cited statistics on sexual assault reminiscent of those now widely discredited, but still used to fan hysteria over such related issues as domestic violence. “A woman is beaten every fifteen seconds” became a national rallying cry despite its inaccuracy.

A domestic violence coalition recently placed flyers around Eagle County reading: “Always believe the victim!” What we have is a so-called progressive group that would return society to the days when neighborhood sentiment could get you burned at the stake.

Let’s face it. Many statistics, whether on rape, domestic violence or sexual assault go unverified, gathered, as they are in shrouded secrecy at “battered women” shelters or through confidential, anonymous government surveys. While supposed civil libertarians caterwaul over the rights of terrorists, there’s little concern for injustices that occur when politically-expedient statistics are published without opposing views or verification.

We have an obligation to speak up when we see injustices. Like it or not, rape has a historically high rate of false accusations and convictions. Recent DNA testing shows many men have been falsely imprisoned on rape charges. An example of the lack of sympathy in these cases: a Maryland man was exonerated after having served eight years on a rape conviction only to have the state charge him for unpaid child support during the time he was falsely imprisoned.

A major problem today is the expansion of the legal definition of rape at a time when the evidence required by courts to convict has been reduced or impaired significantly. Making matters worse, district attorneys no longer prosecute perjury or false allegations, placing ideology before fact.

Some DA’s who signed the letter could themselves be cited for having foisted politically-correct injustices on innocent people.

Numerous examples indict Denver DA Bill Ritter. Incredibly, Ritter's office charged two young brothers a few years ago with felony child abuse after one brother’s girlfriend stabbed the father’s 3-year-old daughter with a butcher knife during a domestic altercation. The father was

actually sleeping when the stabbing took place. Ritter proudly referred to his charges against the brothers as “novel.” The violent woman was not charged.

Jefferson County (Colorado) DA Dave Thomas brought felony child abuse charges against a father who broke his leg in a futile attempt to save his boy in a case of accidental drowning. The DA’s heartless decision angered many people. Later that summer, Thomas’s office declined to file charges against a mother in Conifer whose car crushed a toddler as she backed out of a driveway. His office ruled that death accidental: case closed.

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*The Equal Justice Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes progressive justice and civil liberties for all citizens. For more information, call Dr. Charles Corry at (719) 520-1089 or e-mail him at [ccorry@ejfi.org](mailto:ccorry@ejfi.org). EJF’s Web site is [www.ejfi.org](http://www.ejfi.org) and the foundation also sponsors [www.dvmen.org](http://www.dvmen.org) dealing with domestic violence against men in Colorado.*