

Judicious? ... or Self-Serving??

Recently, 10-14-2012, The SALT Lake Tribune ran an article by Brooke Adams, 'NATURAL Life' sentences on the rise, reporting an ALARMING increase in hard-life prisoners in Utah. Combining that report with an earlier by Stephen Hunt, 'UTAH Parole Board Wields Power Judiciously' (SALT Lake Tribune, 11-25-2009), NATURAL life decisions break-down as follows for the past 7 years:

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Sept, 2012</u>
2	4	10	13	14	14	22

Under Utah's Indeterminate Sentencing scheme, our parole board (Lady Justice unmasked/unretired) sets the actual terms for 1^o, 2^o & 3^o Felony. Of the 5 voting members currently sitting, all have degrees in law and 3 are trained as prosecutors. ("A decision is made when at least three members agree." (Judiciously, 11-25-09)). Were these prosecutors to collude upon a certain outcome, no other decision is possible. ("A real strength is our ability to run thoughts and ideas past each other," (Judiciously, 11-25-09) (quoting Chairman Curtis Garner)).

Are all of these capital life sentences? Or, are we witnessing a long range plan to exacerbate the security needs of our state prison? IT is no secret that "corrections" wants a "new Maximum Security Penitentiary". Has so, for a long time. ("The more time people spend in this business, the more their judgements tend to converge." (quoting Chairman Garner in E-mail to Rep. Lorie Fowler, 4-13-2009, 8:23 A.M.)).

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