



How the U.S. Constitution Assures Justice for All

By

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How The U.S. Constitution Assures Equal Justice for All

Only in the United States of America do people have infinite amount of opportunities from which to choose. Each person is guaranteed the promise of equality and the United States Constitution has its way of making sure the citizens obtain that equal justice. In other countries around the world, many do not have the privilege to vote or to express oneself freely may not exist. It may have taken some time for the Constitution to guarantee every person the specific rights, but eventually they made sure that equal justice was to be served to every American as much as possible. Without the Constitution and specifically the Bill of Rights, America would not be the democracy that it is. It gives Americans the right to legal counsel, voting rights, freedom to express oneself and various others such as freedom of religion and protection from unwarranted searches and seizures. ✓

The right to legal counsel is one of the most important rights in America. Without this right, the less fortunate, who may not be able to afford counsel, could be served injustice. This nation remains of the few in which a person accused of a crime has the right to have counsel to speak on his behalf, or have a jury of impartial citizens and witnesses to speak in their favor. ✓ The accused may be guilty of the crime; however, his counsel must represent him as if he was innocent. A person is said to be innocent until proven guilty and therefore is given every opportunity to prove the same. The fact that the accused may not be able to financially afford a counsel does not negate the right due to the fact that a public defender would be provided.

According to the Fifteenth Amendment, former slaves could not be denied voting rights presently based upon the fact that they were once slaves. It specifically states, "The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude" (The United States

Constitution). It did not state, however, gender as an exclusion of denial to the right to vote. It was not until the Nineteenth Amendment that this issue was addressed stating that “the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex” (The United States Constitution). Furthermore, the Twenty-Sixth Amendment guarantees that any citizen at the age of 18 or older would not be denied the right to vote based on age (The United States Constitution). Although the amendment secures the right to vote, the obligation to register and to exercise the right remains the citizen’s.

Moreover, the First Amendment permits Americans the right to express themselves within the confines of the law. One such example of expression is flag burning. One Supreme Court case known as *Texas v. Johnson (1989)* pronounced that flag burning was constitutional because it was a form of expression (Texas v. Johnson). Although I feel uneasy about burning the flag that represents the country in which I live, it is allowed and ratified by the First Amendment. Expression ranges from music to television shows. I have been more politically conscious during the presidential primaries and was surprised how citizens were freely expressing their dissatisfaction of the president and blaming him for the state in which America finds itself today. Marches have taken place throughout the United States in protest of actions not taken by the government or those that were taken, however, that were not in favor of the citizens. Then I came to realize that because of the freedom of expression, those issues were brought to the forefront of the politicians’ attention and perhaps prompted actions to be taken. After all, the politicians of our government are elected officials; elected by the citizens to represent their desires and concerns.

Personally, I think that the freedom of religion is vital to the country. In many countries across the world, there may be one established religion for the entire country. In America,

citizens have the right to worship and take part in any religion they choose. It is imperative that while doing so, no one's rights are being infringed upon. Each person must be respectful to the fact that each person has his beliefs and morals. The Establishment Clause says that there cannot be a national religion or one that the country prefers over other religions. The Free Exercise Clause states that a person may practice whatever religion he would like without the threat of retaliation. It has been my observation that the public has contradicted the Constitution in that presidential candidate Mitt Romney has been discriminated against because of his Mormon faith. They are skeptical as to whether he would be good for the presidency because of his faith. The Constitution may establish the rights of the citizens of its union but it cannot determine the way in which they will react in any situation.

The Constitution protects its citizens from being illegally searched or seized without probable cause through the Fourth Amendment. Citizens cannot be harassed by their homes being invaded, property taken away, or their possessions being searched unjustly without there being a specific reason. If a legitimate search was to take place and an illegal item other than the one being sought was found, the Constitution protects the citizen of any repercussions.

The Constitution has done everything it can to assure equal justice to the citizens. Each of these rights and protections make it possible for every person to be treated with the same equality. Like it has been stated, it is up to the public as to whether they would like to adhere to the Constitution and make equality obtainable for all.

Works Cited

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