

# Judicial absurdity

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Yakima

To the editor — Lately we have seen what happens when we place excessive power in the hands of a few who believe they know what's best. How dare Superior Court Judge Elofson call our Chief of Police Dominic Rizzi to account for a letter he sent suggesting judges do their proper duty to protect the public? If judges won't do what is right, I am thankful that Chief Rizzi will take steps to support the law-abiding public.

And we saw the same attitude with Judge Reukauf: Instead of letting justice take its course in the Goggin family murders, she blames Mr. Ramm, our chief criminal deputy prosecutor, for mistakes by others and fines him \$1,000 and eliminates murder charges against the defendant. Talk about miscarriage of justice.

Well, fair warning to both of them and all other judges. You may think you have the final say in your courtrooms, but you will learn differently. It will become evident on Election Day that we, the voters of Yakima County, hold true power and will not hesitate to replace those of you who refuse to protect us.



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**Don Padelford** · Top Commenter

I would bet that being most the news si through a media source that we are not hearing all the facts ? We could hear both sides and still not know exactly what when on being both sides would give their account of the situation ? Do not blame per singular person or position. That is like blaming guns for killing people. Put blame on humanity where it belongs. Because without humanity in general, there would be no situation like this to worry about ? Blame the system rather than individuals within the system. Resolve can be done at election time!

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**Nick Hughes** · Top Commenter · Central Washington University

Why are you excusing the blatant incompetence - or erroneous judgement - or both the Goggins case by our Sheriff's office and prosecutors and blaming the judge for following the law? She did the only thing she could do under the circumstances. Why were the prosecutors so anxious to make a plea deal when they saw this case slipping through their fingers instead of working more diligently to gather the evidence that finally came out to convict Harper righteously?

As for the two furloughs, they proved to be a problem, but it is hard for me to chastise Judge Elofson for those entirely, when it was up to the prosecutor's office to bring any objections or reasons as to why these guys shouldn't be allowed out of jail.

The Chief was also right when he questioned this policy, and there is no reason on earth why he shouldn't be allowed to question things like this and then receiving the wrath of a judge who definitely doesn't like his and his associates decisions questioned. Well if this is true, Elofson is in the wrong profession. After all, they are ALL part of our justice system and when there are problems, they need to be able to be discussed. But in defense of Elofson, he is ALSO a leader in our local court system who is lowering the boom on our gangs with gang and weapons enhancements and long sentences wherever possible. I applaud him for that.

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**Chris Pelayo** · Top Commenter

As a crime victims advocate I do not agree with the letter writer. Case after case after case is thrown away in Yakima County because of inadequate work by prosecutors, investigators etc. The judges have dealt with this for years and are FINALLY speaking the truth. Get your act together prosecutors office or you will be penalized. The judges are doing their job. The problem is with the prosecutors. Letter writer you a would think different if you knew the cases or were a victim. Justice is not served until crime victims are.

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**James K. Adams** · Top Commenter · University of Washington

Chief Rizzi violated a basic tenet of the legal system, which tenet is designed to assure, as best we can, impartial judges. He contacted the Judge outside of the Court in what could be interpreted as an attempt to influence the outcome of a case. The writer would not appreciate such contact with his judge behind closed doors if it were his case pending.

Judge Reukauf was enforcing the rules of due process which are based in the U.S. Constitution. I suspect the writer would demand those rules be enforced if he were appearing before the Court.

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**Chris Pelayo** · Top Commenter

Absolutely agree with you James. YHR show us the letter.

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**Chris Pelayo** · Top Commenter

The more I hear about Rizzi's actions the more I question his character as a chief.

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