

Quotations on Judges and Justice

I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.
Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865), speech in Washington D.C., 1865

Courage is of no value unless accompanied by justice; yet if all men became just, there would be no need for courage.
Second -Agesilaus the

The sword of justice has no scabbard. -Antione De Rivalal

It is in justice that the ordering of society is centered. -Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)

Justice does not come from the outside. It comes from inner peace.
-Barbara Hall, A Summons to New Orleans, 2000

Justice is the constant and perpetual will to allot to every man his due.
-Domitus Ulpian (100 AD - 228 AD)

It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive. -Earl Warren (1891-1974)

Justice is a contract of expediency, entered upon to prevent men harming or being harmed.
-Epicurus (341 BC - 270 BC)

Liberty, equality - bad principles! The only true principle for humanity is justice; and justice to the feeble is protection and kindness. -Henri-Frédéric Amiel

If it were not for injustice, men would not know justice. -Heraclitus (540 BC - 480 BC)

Many that live deserve death. And some die that deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then be not too eager to deal out death in the name of justice, fearing for your own safety. Even the wise cannot see all ends.
-J. R. R. Tolkien (1892 - 1973), The Lord Of the Rings, Book Four, Chapter One

The dead cannot cry out for justice; it is a duty of the living to do so for them.
-Lois McMaster Bujold, *Diplomatic Immunity*, 2002

Nobody can give you freedom. Nobody can give you equality or justice or anything. If you're a man, you take it.
-Malcolm X (1925 - 1965), *Malcolm X Speaks*, 1965

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
-Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968), Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963

Justice requires that to lawfully constituted Authority there be given that respect and obedience which is its due; that the laws which are made shall be in wise conformity with the common good; and that, as a matter of conscience all men shall render obedience to these laws.
-Pope Pius XI (1857 - 1939)

Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong.
-Theodore Roosevelt (1858 - 1919), 1916

Justice delayed, is justice denied.
-William Gladstone (1809 - 1898)

Judges ought to be more learned than witty, more reverend than plausible, and more advised than confident. Above all things, integrity is their portion and proper virtue.
-Francis Bacon, *Essays--Of Judicature*

It is the function of a judge not to make but to declare the law, according to the golden mete-wand of the law and not by the crooked cord of discretion.
-Edmund Burke, Preface to *Brissot's Address* (vol. V, p. 67)

Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods.
-Edmund Burke, Preface to *Brissot's Address*

There should be many judges, for few will always do the will of few. [It., Bisogna che i giudici siano assai, perche pochi sempre fanno a modo de' pochi.]
Niccolo Machiavelli (Macchiavelli), *Dei Discorsi* (I, 7)

If you judge, investigate; if you reign, command. [Lat., Si judicas, cognosce; si regnas, jube.]
-Seneca (Lucius Annaeus Seneca), *Medea* (CXCIV)

It doth appear you are a worthy judge; You know the law, your exposition Hath been most sound.
-William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* (Shylock at IV, i)

Judges must beware of hard constructions and strained inferences, for there is no worse torture than that of laws. -Francis Bacon

Our Constitution was not written in the sands to be washed away by each wave of new judges blown in by each successive political wind. -Hugo Black

Those who made and endorsed our Constitution knew man's nature, and it is to their ideas, rather than to the temptations of utopia, that we must ask that our judges adhere. -Robert Bork

We developed a system of protecting human liberty such that judges and independent judges are a necessary part of that protection. -Stephen Breyer

We may have lured judges into roaming at large in the constitutional field. -Warren E. Burger

Judges rule on the basis of law, not public opinion, and they should be totally indifferent to pressures of the times. -Warren E. Burger

The president appoints the judges. Your lives and your children's lives can change by all of these appellate court judges who will be appointed who will reinterpret laws, and things can change. -Johnnie Cochran

Judges must be free from political intervention or intimidation. -Stockwell Day

Judges who take the law into their own hands, who make up constitutional 'rights' in order to strike down laws they oppose, undermine the people's right to have their values shape public policy and define the culture. -Orrin Hatch

Ideological warriors whether from the Left or the Right are bad news for the bench. They tend to make law, not interpret law. And that's not what any of us should want from our judges. -Charles Schumer

But one way or another, judges perform a very vital function in our society. They have a risky job and they are entitled to security. -Arlen Specter

Sources: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/j/johnniecoc191516.html> and others