

Poor Work Ethics Get You Promoted

I have been in the South Dakota State Penitentiary for over a decade and have seen many things occur that the public is not aware of.

One of the things I consistently see is the promotions of prison staff with poor ethics at work and the failure of supervisors to hold them accountable.

There is one correctional officer whose attitude is "I don't care" and actually labels inmates she doesn't like to other inmates in an effort that they will harass, intimidate, steal and even assault the inmate. She actually has her own "click" of prisoners and correctional officers, whom she favors.

I had a prisoner who did an affidavit for my civil rights lawsuit: *Bell v. Young et al.*, Civ. 16-4046 (8th Cir. 2016-20) and was immediately targeted by this correctional officer and her click.

This officer and her associates intimidated this prisoner who did an affidavit for court. She told him "You are with us!" and had her fellow officers and favorite inmates make the message clear to him. This prisoner decided not to do another affidavit for the above civil rights lawsuit.

I have seen this correctional get promoted to Corporal and now to unit staff as a unit coordinator. It is well known that she breaks prison policies and labels prisoners "Rats/snitches" in violation of the 8th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. To FALSELY Label an inmate like she does violates her duty as a correctional officer.

This prison staff member is now a unit coordinator who I was told will soon be on our unit again to replace the present unit coordinator who gave her 2-week notice she is quitting her job.

The many "red flags" that have been raised about the new unit coordinator is ignored. This prison staff member has even more influence to do as she pleases.

There is a status quo here at the South Dakota State Penitentiary that is to keep silent and for prison staff to back up each other in their official oppression. It makes me wonder what will happen if this person some day becomes a Warden or other prison administrator.

There really needs to be accountability and ethics enforced from the bottom up, if not, then unethical people get promoted up the chain of prison staff and the official oppression and corruption expands into the whole prison system.