

The Wisdom of the Ages: In his 1987 training video for rookie prosecutors, veteran prosecutor Jack McMahon explained the importance of kicking poor people, black people, smart people, teachers, women etc. from juries: they might just not be unfair and biased enough for the prosecution. At the end of the video, McMahon explicitly says that he was doing nothing here but imbuing the rookies with “*the wisdom of the ages,*” i.e., with accepted practices that had been going on for a long time (e.g., certainly back to the Mumia Abu-Jamal murder trial in 1982). This section of the video deals with the particular necessity to strike **black** jurors.

“People from Mayfair Are Good, but People from 33rd and Diamond Stink”



“Good” jurors: from Mayfair, Somerton, or Chestnut Hill

“Other questions you may ask: What section of the city do you live in? You may want to ask that, because that is a strong indicator to you of their leanings. Let’s be honest – I mean, people that live in North Philly have a different perspective on law enforcement and the government than people that live in KNA, or at Somerton or at Chestnut Hill, or any other different areas. You’ve got to recognize those things.”

“And people, a lot of people – I mean, I wasn’t from Philadelphia, and when I came here, one of the first things to learn, I guess most or all of you are from here, but I didn’t

know sections of the city, and if people would tell me, I’m from a certain location – that wouldn’t mean anything to me. So if you’re not familiar with the city, *get* familiar with the city, get a list of all the sections, and get people that have been around and tried cases:”

“Say, people from Mayfair are good, and people from 33rd and Diamond stink. And get to know that. I mean 33rd and Diamond at first sounds nice. Hey, 33rd and Diamond sounds like a nice neighborhood, **but you don’t want any jurors from 33rd and Diamond.** And so, be familiar with the city, before you start making any of those decisions.”

Sounds curious, right? And not in a good way...

If you also think so and are interested to learn more, check the full video & additional quotes and analyses on www.againstthecrimeofsilence.de.

Jurors who “stink”: the people from 33rd & Diamond and such

