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LETTERS

Overcrowded Prisons

With respect to the recent article (“The 2018 Florida Bar Criminal Justice Summit: A First Step in Improving Florida’s Criminal Justice System,” January/February) in *The Florida Bar Journal* regarding overcrowded prisons and the swollen Department of Corrections budget, the solution seems clear; jail fewer people. As a former chief prosecutor, I witnessed legions of people going to prison for purely nonviolent offenses.

This was, and is, senseless.

First, let’s get sane about the criminalization of marijuana. It is far less dangerous to humans and society than alcohol...far less. Of the violent crimes I prosecuted, including death penalty cases, nearly all involved the use of alcohol and none involved marijuana.

Prison is for violent criminals and serial felons. When the Florida Legislature gains the courage to modernize our laws to reflect reality, a cure to the prison over-crowding problem will occur.

ROBERT L. McLEOD II, *St. Augustine*

OATH OF ADMISSION TO THE FLORIDA BAR

The general principles which should ever control the lawyer in the practice of the legal profession are clearly set forth in the following oath of admission to the Bar, which the lawyer is sworn on admission to obey and for the willful violation to which disbarment may be had.

“I do solemnly swear:

“I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida;

“I will maintain the respect due to courts of justice and judicial officers;

“I will not counsel or maintain any suit or proceedings which shall appear to me to be unjust, nor any defense except such as I believe to be honestly debatable under the law of the land;

“I will employ, for the purpose of maintaining the causes confided in me such means only as are consistent with truth and honor, and will never seek to mislead the judge or jury by any artifice or false statement of fact or law;

“I will maintain the confidence and preserve inviolate the secrets of my clients, and will accept no compensation in connection with their business except from them or with their knowledge and approval;

“To opposing parties and their counsel, I pledge fairness, integrity, and civility, not only in court, but also in all written and oral communications;

“I will abstain from all offensive personality and advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness, unless required by the justice of the cause with which I am charged;

“I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, or delay anyone’s cause for lucre or malice. So help me God.”

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