Book One - Introduction

A man is told, “If you don’t steal that penny then one million people will die. If you do steal that penny then they will be saved.” Should he steal the penny?

There is a saying, “The law is an ass.” This is only true when the practitioners of our justice system regard our written law as the purest and highest form of right and wrong; this, at the expense of any moral or ethical considerations.

Surely any punishment for breaking the criminal law should be judged not only by the black and white of the law but also with some regard for any moral or ethical reasons as to why the law was broken in the first place, along with any mitigating circumstances and the potential impact of the punishment.

*****

In 1996, NCR Corporation, a large American computer company, "lost" approximately $1,000,000 in a bank account in Belgium. Lost, that is, apart from one middle manager, who had his eye on the money.

The corporate incompetence of NCR and the greed of one man led to so much destruction to so many lives, costing the developing world many tens of millions of hard-earned dollars and wasting many years of hard work.

*****

Why on earth would a perfectly sane and honest man steal over $1,000,000, just to give it away? Why would he take such a risk for no benefit? This book attempts to explain this strangest of crimes, a bizarre form of justice and the most draconian and extreme punishment that has caused so much destruction to so many.

Between 1997 and 1999, I was put into an impossible situation by an employee of NCR Corporation; an impossible situation that gave me little option but to break the law. The alternative would have been to put my many customers in the developing world at great risk of losing their hard-earned investments and betray the trust that had been placed in me, a trust for which I felt very honoured.

In trying to help the developing world to modernise, I was inveigled into the fraudulent activities that led me to be the subject of civil and criminal proceedings, both of which left me stunned and confused by the vicious, heartless and immoral people involved in our so-called "justice” system. Many times I sat in court in disbelief as reality was

distorted, important facts ignored, and, yes, even lies told by those that are supposedly pursuing justice. I was often traumatised by the evils I found lurking there. Truth, honesty, trust, morality; none of these appear to have any role within our "injustice" system.

Our justice system is based on the purest black and white of the written law, but life is never black and white as the justice system likes it to be, there are very many shades of grey. Whether mitigation is taken into account, whether the consequences of a sentence are taken into account, this is all at the whim of a "wise" judge. One judge may take this into account and another may not; it is a lottery. I was unlucky and so were my family and my customers.

Had I been a dishonest character with a criminal mind then I would now be personally worth a great deal of money. Because I am honest, trusting, trustworthy and loyal, I have lost everything. This, it seems, is British justice.

Vince, a fellow inmate of Springhill Open Prison put it in a nutshell when discussing my "crime," when he said; “You judge others by your own standards.” An honest man believes others are honest, a trustworthy man believes others to be trustworthy, a crook believes others to be crooks, a greedy man believes others to be greedy; that is their initial default judgement.

I was in prison and my life was being dismantled because I had trusted business partners, I had trusted those that I thought were friends and I had trusted the police and the justice system. My total honesty and my absolute trust in the justice system to be fair and dispense true justice was to be used against me time and time again.

I never felt that I was that much different to the next man, however, my determination to help people, my extreme altruism and my total lack of greed appear to be somewhat of a novelty these days. I maybe naïve, I maybe very foolish but I am not greedy, I am not selfish, I am not dishonest and I am certainly not a fraudster or a criminal.

When we pawns appear in court we are asked to make an oath, which goes something like this:

> "I swear by (according to religious belief) that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

I’m really not sure what the difference is between “the truth,” “the whole truth” and “nothing but the truth,” but I’m sure it is not the selective truth as used by NCR’s barrister in the civil case during which they were careful to hide the full facts of the case from the court, or the distorted truth as used by the police and the CPS in the criminal

trial (not mine) that was to have such a catastrophic impact on my life and the lives of so many others.

The true facts of my case are perfectly clear yet I was not given one single second to speak in court in either the civil or the criminal hearings. There were people that understood but they were soon sidelined. Nobody, not the police, not the CPS, not NCR, not the "wise" judges, wanted to know the truth as it would upset their own personal agendas.

After my experiences of our justice system I think it would be only fair for the solicitors and the barristers to take a similar oath, as they are often the ones that are tampering with the truth.

What, I ask you, is wrong with a bit of truth? So, here is "Inveigled," the story of an honest man (or should I say pawn), against the frightening, evil destructive world that masquerades as a justice system. This is the full story, the story that the professionals would rather you didn't know.