

May, 2005

To: Whom It May Concern

Re: Prison Staff Interfering with My Rights under State Law and the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment to Send and Receive Regular and Confidential Mail.

I am a prisoner of the California Department of Corrections ("CDC"). On 3/18/05 I arrived at the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison in Corcoran (SATF). Since then, my incoming and outgoing regular and confidential (/legal) mail has been and continues to be unlawfully obstructed by staff at this prison as set forth in the following more serious examples:

1. Since my arrival on 3/18/05, this prison has ignored my written requests to be provided with the means to send mail as set forth for indigent prisoners at § 3134 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Division 3, Chapter 1 ("CCR15").
2. On 3/29/05, the mailroom returned to me unmailed 2 envelopes of outgoing confidential (/legal) mail I submitted 7 days earlier to California Inspector General Matthew Cate and Attorney Meghan Lang at the Law Offices of Rosen, Bien, & Asaro. The mailroom's memo accompanying the returned envelopes falsely accuses me of abusing "indigent status" because I do not have funds in my prison trust account to process the mailings with the CDC form 193 I attached so postage could be charged against my trust account for a period not to exceed 30 days. Because I am indigent and do not have the means to pay for postage on mail to the persons and staff members of persons at CCR15 § 3141(c), I immediately returned the envelopes to the mailroom supervisor with a memo explaining that the 2nd- and Director's-level responses to an administrative grievance I submitted in 2004 (#LAC-B04-00697, CDC HQ #0400830) establishes that the only outgoing envelopes of confidential mail which may be returned by mailroom staff when indigent prisoners attach CDC forms 193 are those addressed to individuals not listed at CCR15 § 3141(c).
3. On 4/1/05, the mailroom returned to me unmailed 8 envelopes of outgoing confidential (/legal) mail I submitted 12 days earlier to: 1) Attorneys Rosen, Bien, & Asaro; 2) Attorney Mark Ravis; 3) the warden of the Calif. State Prison in L.A. County; 4) Attorney Robert Young; 5) Legal Services for Prisoners with Children; 6) the ACLU Nat'l Prison Project; 7) Attorney Cheryl Montgomery; and 8) the chief of CDC's Policy & Regulations Management Branch. The mailroom's memo accompanying the returned envelopes again falsely accuses me of abusing "indigent status" because I do not have funds in my trust account to cover postage with the CDC form 193 I attached. On 4/3/05, I forwarded the envelopes directly to the SATF warden (Adams) with a memo reporting the problem and explaining to him that the 2nd- and Director's-level responses to my 2004 grievance establish that the only outgoing envelopes of confidential mail which may be returned by mailroom staff when indigent prisoners attach CDC forms 193 are those addressed to individuals not listed at CCR15 § 3141(c).
4. On 4/6/05, the mailroom returned to me unmailed 3 envelopes of outgoing confidential (/legal) mail (including those discussed above at #2) submitted 8 and 15 days earlier to California Inspector General Matthew Cate and Attorney Meghan Lang. The mailroom's accompanying memo falsely not only again accuses me of abusing "indigent status" but also alleges that I am 1) "not indigent", and 2)