

Remember The Janitors!

Knowing that I stand firmly in support of *justifiable* discrimination—refer to <http://www.colony14.net/id537.html>—my friend Mario Apuzzo (*Kerchner v. Obama*) forwarded to me an article from *The National Law Journal* that he knew I would add to my “list of things that prove western civilization belongs on the endangered list.”

It seems that Meghan Larywon, a senior at Wesleyan University, has filed a discrimination lawsuit against the Law School Admission Council. Larywon claims that the council violated her rights, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, by denying her request for special accommodations when taking the Law School Admission Test. Larywon claims she has “attention deficit disorder” (who nowadays doesn’t?) and a “processing speed disorder,” a purported disability that prevents her “from succeeding when success is measured by one’s ability to read and process visual information under time pressure.”

Ms. Larywon may not do too well in tests, but she can apparently do her homework—albeit sloooowly—because she was able to find that there even *is* such a thing as “processing speed disorder.” Not only does there seem to be an excuse for every possible imaginable human inadequacy, there is also a politically correct term that helps one demand an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

When the legislation was being considered in 1990 I warned that it would have a multitude of unintended consequences. With the law’s definition of disability broadly written as “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity” it was obvious to me that it could just as easily have been called the “Excuses for Everything Act” or the “Attorney Employment Act.” No one accepted my warnings and they all called me crazy—which at least was an acceptable term back then. Today I would probably be labeled “mentally challenged” or even something worse, like “a conservative.”

Frankly, I thought we should have stopped the nomenclature nonsense even before we decided that “janitors” should be called “maintenance engineers.” I wasn’t too crazy about the change from “personnel department” to “human resources” either, but I reluctantly went along with it—mostly because my interoffice memos to “personnel” did not always get delivered.

Call me old-fashioned, but I still use the term “teacher” rather than “facilitator,” “mailman” rather than “postal worker,” and “fat, leftist slob” rather than “Michael Moore.”

Sometimes you have to draw a line in the sand, and I think Ms. Larywon has just dared someone to draw that line. I therefore invite all who refuse to replace the term “stupidity” with “processing speed disorder” to stand with me on my side of the line. Granted, our action may not be as daring as joining Colonel William Travis in defense of the Alamo, but sometimes great achievements begin with seemingly minor acts of defiance.

I am sure there are many who would disagree with me, including those who think Michelle Obama is thin and stylish and who believe an oil drilling moratorium off the coast of the United States is a terrific way to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil. But even those who believe Forrest Gump's adage, "Processing speed disorder is as processing speed disorder does," have to recognize that hiring a dim-witted lawyer is not a good idea. After all, when you are paying for legal services *by the hour* you probably do not want to be represented by someone who cannot read or process information *under time pressure*.

Don Fredrick

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Sources:

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