

1-1-2010

Poems by Richard Krech

Richard Krech

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.uchastings.edu/hwlj>



Part of the [Law and Gender Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Richard Krech, *Poems by Richard Krech*, 21 *Hastings Women's L.J.* 107 (2010).

Available at: <https://repository.uchastings.edu/hwlj/vol21/iss1/4>

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Hastings Women's Law Journal* by an authorized editor of UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact wangangela@uchastings.edu.

Poems by Richard Krech*

BODHISATTVA OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE¹

The advocate strides into the hell-worlds
of the steel bars, of the squeezing tongues
and hungry ghosts.

Battles

enslavers, judges, addictions, and monsters.

In this dharma
one is armed not with a sword but a word;
a mindful & concentrated intellect
connected thereto.

This practice has the chance
to gain freedom
to diminish suffering.

This right livelihood
surely is on the path to liberation.

* Richard Krech is an attorney, poet, and activist residing in Albany, California. He was active in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s, when he began writing. d.a. levy published his first book in 1967. He attended law school in 1976, and then began a career of criminal defense work. A comprehensive bibliography of Mr. Krech's writing can be found at <http://www.verdantpress.com/krech.html> (last visited on Nov. 19, 2009).

¹ Printed with permission from RICHARD KRECH, IN CHAMBERS: THE BODHISATTVA OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE (Sunnyoutside 2008).

PREMEDITATED DELIBERATED & INTENTIONAL²

After three days the jury came back
with its verdict: guilty of murder
with special circumstances.
A month later
we sit here again,
waiting for the penalty phase verdict.
The jury not only deliberating
my client's fate this time,
but their own as well:
will they too be guilty of murder?

Premeditated murder this time.
Not the rash impulsive act of a teenager
but the sober calculated decision
of twelve adults:
a teacher, a fireman, a nurse...
not my client's peers
by any stretch of the imagination.

The prosecutor having removed all blacks
from the jury
over my objection
and with the court's blessing.

Will they cast the second stone?

² Printed with permission from RICHARD KRECH, IN CHAMBERS: THE BODHISATTVA OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE (Sunnyoutside 2008).

THE REMITTITUR ON *LAZALDE*

After two prison terms
one deportation
and over four years,
the trial court is ordered
to conduct a new hearing
in conformity
with the Constitution.

(People v. Lazalde 120 Cal.App. 4th 858 (2004))
