



# The Due Process Advocate

*"No Person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property without the due process of law"  
- Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution*

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## WHAT IS THE REAL JOB OF A MEMBER OF CONGRESS?

Florida Republican David Jolly became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014. As reported by "60 Minutes", he was given the following instructions, behind closed doors, by party leadership upon arriving in Washington:

"Your job, new member of Congress, is to raise \$18,000 a day. Your first responsibility is to make sure you hit \$18,000 a day."

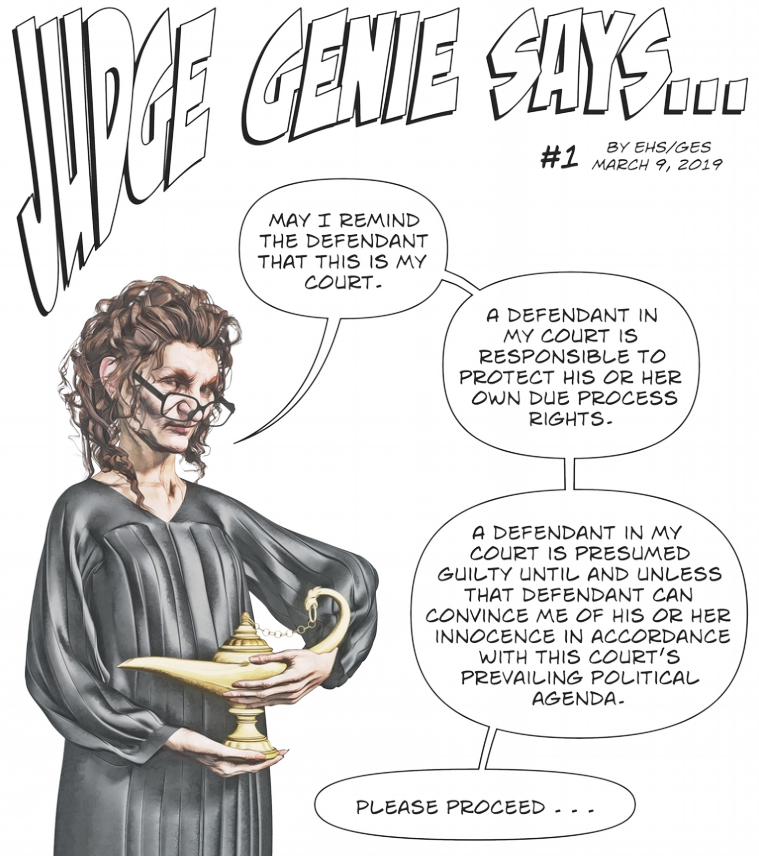
Jolly further reported to 60 Minutes that, "members of Congress are given lists of names and scripts. Because members aren't allowed to fundraise on Capitol grounds, the campaign arms of the parties have setup call bank headquarters near the Capitol, where members can duck in to to spend a few hours on the phone - and that the schedule of Congress is arranged around fundraising." Jolly called the setup "shameful."

Jolly lost his seat in Congress to Charlie Crist in 2016; perhaps exemplary of the political grid-lock that keeps members of Congress from doing their jobs.

But what is real job that Congress is supposed to be focused on?

The key responsibility of Congress evolves from the crucial fact that the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the unique power to create laws. Congress is the Legislative Branch of the federal government consisting of two legislative bodies: The Senate with two elected officials from each state and the House of Representatives with the number of House members from each state based on each state's population. Therefore, the Senate gives each state equal representation and the House of Representatives give states with greater populations a greater voice. Each house can write, debate, and pass bills that become law when approved by both the House and Senate; and then signed by the president. The U.S. government structure provides extraordinary support services and resources to members of Congress. These include the Government Printing Office that prepares all public documents, the Library of Congress that catalogs the documents, the Architect of the Capital that maintains the building that houses Congress, the Congressional Budget Office that analyzes the budget and reviews all the large programs (like Social Security and the Department of Defense), and the General Accounting Office that advises Congress about wasteful spending and the financial risks inherent to certain programs. As you can imagine from this very brief structural and functional recap, the workload and the costs of Congress are extraordinary and overwhelming given the current status of the United States and the increasing demands to serve well over 300 million people (all with ever-increasing rights, demands, expectations, and entitlements).

Every other November, however, voters must elect, or re-elect, all 435 Representatives for the upcoming two-year term and one-third of the 100 Senators for their six-year terms. This is creating a debacle that may very well spell disaster for America in the future for these fundamental reasons:



1. Politicians looking to get elected are spending way too much time and money campaigning; and not enough time working on the urgent problems facing our nation and its people; and

2. Our nation is irrefutably disintegrating right before our eyes as a result: National debt is skyrocketing, our infrastructure is crumbling, housing values are once again dangerously inflated as we kid ourselves about our “propped-up” and “fed-manipulated” economy, foreign relations have disaster written all over them, public confidence and trust is low, the health care crisis remains a debacle, we are even losing the war on drugs, students are going hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, there is widespread corruption at every level of government, and arbitrary rule is taking over our counts.

Perhaps there is just too much money to be made by getting elected.

Simply put, Congress needs to spend more time solving our nations problems and less time campaigning and worrying about their political survival. The job of the members of Congress should be to legislate the rules and public policies that become the “law of the land” in support of equal opportunity at law, equal protection at law, and the due process at law being available to all Americans.

***“Your job, new member of Congress, is to raise \$18,000 a day. Your first responsibility is to make sure you hit \$18,000 a day.”***

***- Source: 60 Minutes***

### **DUE PROCESS ADVOCATES & PAID CONSULTANTS WANTED**

If you are an established advocate or consultant with a special interest in due process issues, please don't hesitate to contact me to explore a working relationship:

Edward H. Smith, Publisher  
497 Hooksett Road #395  
Manchester, NH 03104

**Phone:** (603) 867-1022

**Fax:** (603) 218-6624

**Email:** ehsportal@gmail.com

**Websites:** www.ehsportal.com  
www.dueprocessadvocate.com

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