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## The Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Conviction

Thomas R. McCoy

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SPECIAL PROJECT

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## The Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Conviction

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*The language of these statutes, in the absence of other recognized and established principles of law, would seem to divest a citizen of all rights whatsoever and render him absolutely civiliter mortuus, but the principles of law which this verbiage literally imports had [their] origin in the fogs and fictions of feudal jurisprudence and doubtlessly [have] been brought forward into modern statutes without fully realizing either the effect of [their] literal significance or the extent of [their] infringement upon the spirit of our system of government.*

Byers v. Sun Savings Bank, 41 Okla. 728, 731, 139 P. 948,  
949 (1914).

*As a general matter [civil disability law] has simply not been rationally designed to accommodate the varied interests of society and the individual convicted person. There has been little effort to evaluate the whole system of disabilities and disqualifications that has grown up . . . . As a result, convicted persons are generally subjected to numerous disabilities and disqualifications which have little relation to the crime committed, the person committing it or, consequently, the protection of society. They are often harsh out of all proportion to the crime committed.*

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, TASK FORCE REPORT:  
CORRECTIONS 88 (1967).

