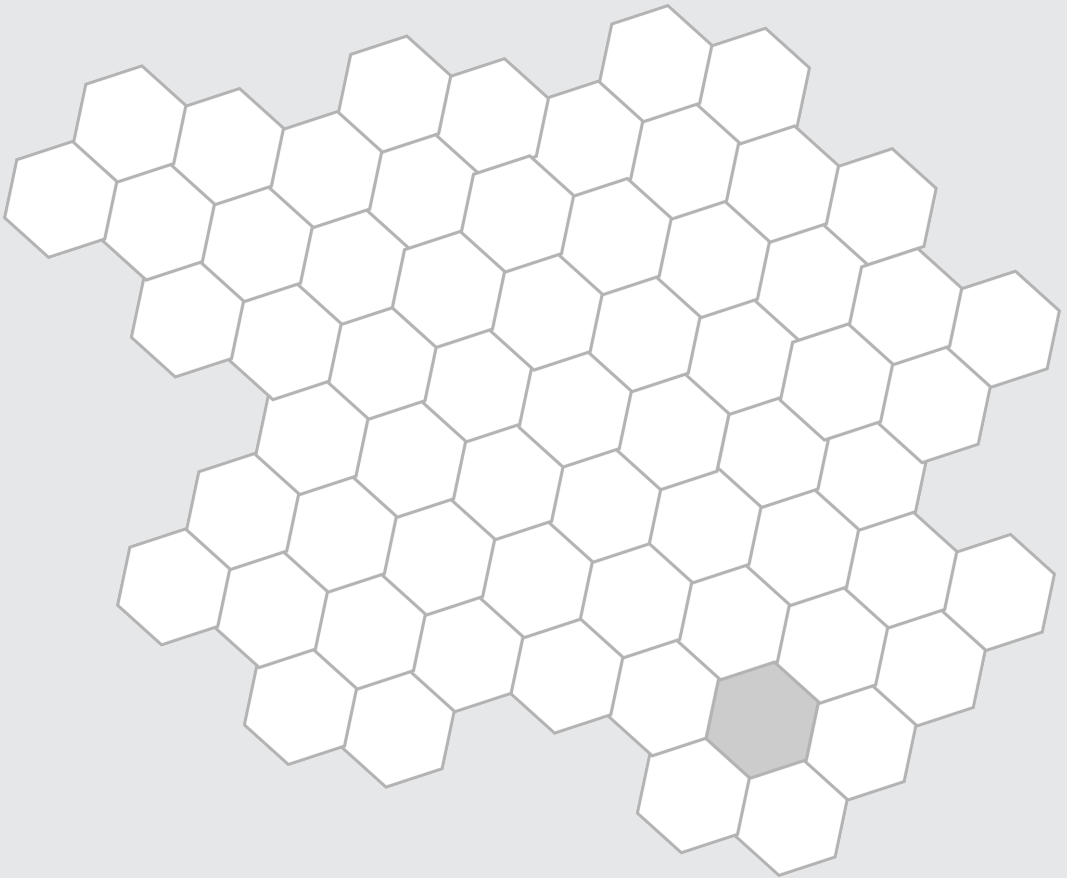


# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON **SOCIAL MEDIA**

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# Data Mining as a Civic Duty—Online Public Prisoners' Registration Systems

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## Abstract

Prisoners' registration systems in the United States are government-controlled networks holding public records that are critical for the safeguarding of liberty. The current report investigated validity, verification, and security concerns pertaining to the Los Angeles, California, online Inmate Information Center. Hundreds of entries were sampled and about half were found invalid. In particular cases access to the arrest and booking records—public records by California law—was requested. Access was denied. Neither were invalid records corrected upon request. Therefore it was concluded that invalid records posted online were not the outcome of inadvertent errors. Similar deficiencies were found in the prisoners' registration system of Marin County, California. Solutions are proposed, based on structured programming and certified, functional logic verification, which must be mandated in such systems. Data mining will remain a civic duty—in the US and worldwide—to safeguard human rights in the digital era.

## Key words

functional logic verification; relational databases; Case Management Systems; human rights; prisons and prisoners; register of prisoners; Los Angeles; California; United States; justice system; law; fraud; corruption; false imprisonment

## Biographical note

Professor Zernik served on the faculty of the University of Connecticut, University of Southern California, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 2010 he founded Human Rights Alert (NGO), dedicated to discovering, archiving, and disseminating evidence of human rights violations by the justice systems of the State of California and the United States in Los Angeles, California, and beyond. Special emphasis is given to the unique role of computerized case management systems in the precipitous deterioration of the integrity of the justice system.

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## Introduction

Long standing traditions in courts and the justice systems originating from Western Europe require careful public record keeping of prisoners held by the authorities, to prevent abuse—which could result in the deprivation of liberty and oppression of opposition to any prevailing regime.<sup>1</sup> The current study employed data

mining to investigate the integrity of the records in the online prisoners' registration systems of Los Angeles and Marine County, California. In both cases the records provided online in the prisoners' registration systems were not amenable to authentication, and a large fraction of the records were found to be apparently invalid.

Solutions are proposed, which are based on structured programming and publicly and legally accountable validation (certified, functional logic verification). With these—transparency of such systems must be required, and data mining will remain critical for the safeguarding of human rights.

Conditions now prevailing in Los Angeles County, California, as documented in the current report based on analysis of the prisoner registration system, are consistent with previous official and unofficial reports based on lengthy legal investigations which documented large-scale false imprisonment in Los Angeles County. The current report documents that data mining provides low-cost, fast, and effective means for monitoring the justice system. The computing and informatics community is called upon to take a leading role in monitoring human rights in the digital era.

### **Habeas Corpus—Imprisonment Must Conform with the Fundamentals of the Law**

The right to petition for a writ of habeas corpus was established in the English Magna Carta (1215)—whereby any prisoner and/or others are permitted to challenge his/her imprisonment by requesting to be brought before a judge to review the legal foundation for the confinement, and seeking a writ for his/her release in its absence. The US Constitution Article I, § 9, clause 2, states:

*The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.*

The late US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis (1856–1941) referred to it as the greatest achievement of the English-speaking legal system – establishing liberty by law. The late Justice William Brennan Jr (1906–1997), referred to it as the “Cornerstone of the United States Constitution”. In *Fay v Noia* (1963), he wrote for the majority of the US Supreme Court:

*The basic principle of the Great Writ of habeas corpus is that, in a civilized society... if the imprisonment cannot be shown to conform with the fundamental requirements of law, the individual is entitled to his immediate release.*

At minimum “conforming with the fundamental requirements of the law” entails basing the confinement on valid and effectual judicial records—valid and effectual booking records establishing admission of any prisoner into custody of the authorities, which refer in turn to a valid warrant for the arrest, referring to a valid pending court case, or conviction/verdict when imprisonment is based on a settled case.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights—ratified International Law, likewise prohibits arbitrary arrests and imprisonment.<sup>ii</sup>



Figure 1:  
Historic, paper-based Register of Prisoners,  
City of Santa Monica, California

### **Prisoners' Arrest and Booking Records—California public records by law**

Obviously, no meaningful habeas corpus right could be practiced, if no access was permitted to judicial records that form the presumed foundation for the imprisonment. Therefore, one must consider the right of habeas corpus and the right of public access to judicial records and access to an honest register of prisoners—to inspect and to copy, as closely related fundamental human rights—both of medieval origins. In the United States the right to access judicial records is considered a First Amendment right. In the British legal system it is deemed a common law right. State of California law defines the arrest and booking records of all prisoners as Public Records—California Public Records Act, California Government Code § 6254(f)). The California Public Records Act states:

*... public records are open to inspection at all times during the office hours of the...agency and every person has a right to inspect any public record... [and to receive] an exact copy.*

In the past, conformity with such a legal framework was accomplished through the maintenance by the authorities of constantly updated Registers of Prisoners (Figure 1), and the maintenance of files holding the respective arrest and booking records, and matching of such records with routine counts of prisoners on location.<sup>iii</sup>

### **Registers of Prisoners in the Digital Era**

With the transition to administration of the justice system based on digital records, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department established a setup which is routinely found in other parts of the justice system in California and the US: The legal records are internally maintained through a case management system—a subtype of database management systems. External public access is provided through a sep-

Figure 2: The online public access system of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department—Inmate Information Center (IIC)



arate online public access system which is a derivative projection of the database but does not present any images of the original legal records. Therefore, the two systems can be viewed as relational databases. Such systems can likewise be viewed as government-owned and regulated social networks. The main objective in data mining of such networks is the safeguarding of human rights.

## Objective

The current report investigates the prisoners' registration system of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department through data-mining to assess the validity of records presented in the system. The report further assesses the compliance of the system of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with the California Public Records Act, and with fundamental human rights.

Additionally, the results from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department were compared with similar results from the Sheriff's Department of Marin County, California.

Finally—the report assesses the role of data mining and computing professionals in the monitoring of government-run networks and the protection of human rights in the digital era.

## The System

### Online Public Prisoners Registration Systems

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department established an online, public access system to the prisoners register—the Inmate Information Center (IIC) (Figure 2).<sup>iv</sup>

### Internal Case Management System for Booking Prisoners

The booking records themselves are produced and accessible through a networked, high-security system of booking terminals placed at various law enforcement stations in Los Angeles County, California. The terminals are capable of capturing booking data including demographic data, booking photographs, and finger prints, and link them with warrant, conviction, and sentencing records, as well as listing of prison terms and future scheduled court appearances—data which are derived from court records.

## Methods

### Data Mining

Data were mined through routine, manual public access to IIC, as permitted by law. Additional access was attempted through the VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)<sup>v</sup> system—a national United States system aimed at providing crime victims with access to prisoners' data.

### Assessment of Data Validity

Data captured were assessed for validity based on criteria including:

- (a) Prisoners' records, provided online through IIC, were examined for the presence of valid verification and/or authentication.
- (b) Prisoners' records, provided online through IIC, were examined for other basic indicators of integrity, including, but not limited to:
  - i. Availability of a Booking Number for each and every named prisoner.
  - ii. Consistency of the name of inmate listed in the individual record with the name used for the query, or correct listing of aliases.
  - iii. Existence of reference to a valid warrant from a valid court record.
  - iv. Availability of conviction/sentencing or court appearance data from a valid court case.
  - v. Continuous graphical correlation between Booking Numbers and the Date of Booking in sample populations derived from IIC.
  - vi. Existence of consecutive data for consecutive Booking Numbers.
  - vii. Existence of data entries for known prisoners when accessed from the alternative VINE portals.

### Attempts to Access California Public Records and Correct False Records

In particular instances where credible evidence was available that data provided through IIC was invalid, false and misleading, attempts were made to access the California public records, which were the arrest and booking records of the individual prisoners, to corroborate or refute the online IIC data. Such attempts were initially carried out through direct written requests to the Sheriff's Department following specific directions provided by the Legal Director of a California civil rights organization<sup>vi</sup>, pursuant to the California Public Records Act, California Government Code § 6254(f). Upon denial of such attempts, additional attempts were made to access the records through inquiries to the Sheriff by the highest Los Angeles County elected officials.

In particular instances where credible evidence was available that records provided through IIC were false and misleading, written requests were filed with the Sheriff's Department to correct the false records.

## **Comparison to Marin County, California, Prisoners' Booking Log**

The methods applied to the IIC were applied also to the Marin County Sheriff's Department Prisoners' Booking Log, albeit, in the latter system, access was permitted to the complete register of prisoners, and random sampling of the prisoners' records was therefore possible.

## **Results**

Data in the current report were manually mined, and therefore limited in scope—only a few hundred prisoners' records were examined, as detailed below, and only limited results and conclusions could be reached.

### **Data Mining**

Access to prisoners' data through the IIC is limited. Access is provided through input of the prisoner's first and last name only, and no access is provided by booking number, by date of arrest, by date of booking, or by arrest and booking location. Therefore, random data sampling was not practicable.

To circumvent such limitations, prisoners' records were sampled and collected through queries by common first and last names such as "Jose Ramirez",<sup>vii</sup> "Jose Rodriguez",<sup>viii</sup> and "John Smith".<sup>ix</sup> The two former names retrieved over a hundred prisoners' entries each, most of them from arrests and bookings, which took place in recent years (most convicted prisoners are held in other facilities which are not administered the Sheriff's Department). Data retrieved from the individual IIC records were compiled in a table form (Table 1). In addition the actual records or excerpts from the records of individual prisoners were attached in order to demonstrate the nature of the records.

### **Data Validity**

In all three surveys a large fraction of the entries were found to be missing any Booking Number—rendering such entries apparently invalid. Furthermore, in a large portion of the cases, reference was made to judicial records from various "Municipal Courts". However, Municipal Courts ceased to exist in Los Angeles County, California around 2001<sup>x</sup>—almost a decade ago, whereas the respective IIC records were very recent. Such data were deemed invalid as well.

Additionally, records where the court reference or case numbers were missing, or case numbers were provided such as #000000, or #9999999, were deemed invalid records.

Records where the name of the prisoner listed in the IIC records was substantially different, or entirely unrelated to the name used in the query, but neither name was marked as an alias, were deemed invalid as well. Combined, the fraction of invalid records approached 50% of all data samples.

### **Consecutive Booking Numbers**

No access was permitted in the IIC to query prisoners' data by booking number. However, such access was indirectly provided through the VINE system,<sup>xi</sup> which

claims to derive its data from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. No records at all were found for a large fraction of the Booking Numbers in queries of consecutive numbers. Likewise, no prisoners' records were identified, even in cases where the prisoners were known to be held by the Sheriff.

### Correlation of Booking Numbers and Booking Dates

Attempts to correlate Booking Numbers with booking dates routinely yielded evidence of the parallel use by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department of two numbering series: a) The "Low Series"—with Booking Numbers in the 1,200,000 to 1,400,000 range, encompassing 10–15% of Booking Numbers in the various surveys, and b) The "High Series"—with Booking Numbers ranging in the 2,000,000–encompassing the vast majority of Booking Numbers (Figure 3). Attempts to define common factors in the Low Series numbers—such as date or location of the arrest and booking, were unsuccessful. Given the networked nature of the system, such results must be viewed as an alarming indicator of lack of system validity and integrity.

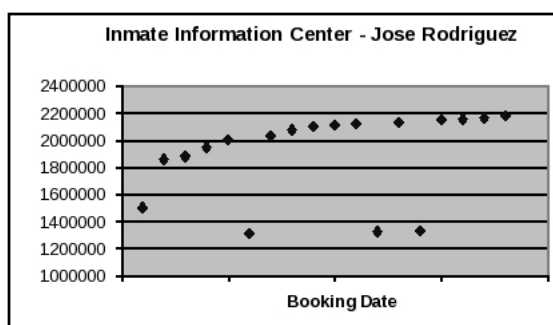


Figure 3:  
Correlation of Booking date  
and Booking Number, results  
for Prisoner name "Jose  
Rodriguez"<sup>xii</sup>

### Racial Bias, or Lack Thereof

It was assumed that names such as Jose Rodriguez and Jose Ramirez retrieved records that mostly reflected prisoners of Latino ancestry. John Smith was likewise assumed as reflecting records of non-Latino prisoners, albeit that no means was available to distinguish by name "white" and "black" prisoners except by race as listed by the Sheriff's Department. The data accumulated in the current report did not allow the determining of whether any bias existed in the use of false invalid data for any particular ethnic group.

### Access to California Public Records

Attempts to access public records, which are the arrest and booking records of Los Angeles County prisoners, pursuant to California law, by direct written requests to the Sheriff's Department, were denied without exception, in disregard of the law. Even when attempts were made to access such records through inquiries by Los Angeles' highest elected officials,<sup>xiii</sup> only false and deliberately misleading records

were produced. Such efforts were focused on cases where the online IIC records were clearly false and misleading.

For example, media and witnesses clearly documented that the 70 year-old former US prosecutor Richard Fine was apprehended on March 4, 2009, at the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street.<sup>xiv</sup> He has been held in a hospital ward under solitary confinement ever since. In contrast, the online IIC records falsely stated that the arrest and booking took place on the same date—March 4, 2009—but at a location and pursuant to the authority of the non-existent San Pedro Municipal Court, Los Angeles County, City of San Pedro. Moreover, the Sheriff's Deputy at the only court today existing at that location—the San Pedro Annex, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles—denied that Richard Fine or anybody else was arrested or booked there in recent years, or that any booking facilities existed at the location at all.

### **Correction of False IIC Records**

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department was required by law to keep valid and effectual records as the basis for any imprisonment.<sup>xv, xvi</sup> The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department was repeatedly informed of the false and misleading records posted the IIC system regarding the arrest and booking of Richard Fine and others, and requests were made to correct the data. Regardless, the Sheriff's Department repeatedly produced the false records—unverified and unauthenticated printouts from the IIC, instead of producing a valid arrest warrant and booking records for Richard Fine and others, which were requested. Therefore, it is claimed that a reasonable person would conclude that the posting of false data in IIC in such cases was not the outcome of inadvertent errors. Instead it was a case of fraud by the justice system, intended to affect the false imprisonment of Richard Fine and others.

### **Comparison to the Marin County Prisoners' Booking Log<sup>xvii</sup>**

The Marin County online Booking Log was subjected to data mining similar to that performed in the Los Angeles system, albeit, the system permitted access to all prisoners' records, and therefore random sampling was feasible. The data were found to be far from meeting basic standards of integrity. Over half the records in a sample lacked any reference to court records at all. Moreover, reference was made in such cases to "Confidential Court Cases". No "confidential court cases" are permitted by US or international law. None of the cases lacking reference to court records were those of minors.

Furthermore, no correlation at all was found between Jail IDs and Original Booking Dates of the prisoners (Figure 4).

Upon review of the court cases, in cases which included reference data, all were found belonging to existing cases of the existing Marin County Superior Court.

Table 1: Sample data extracted from the Marin County online Booking Log

#	Page Name	Jail ID	Original Booking Date	Court Case(s), DOB, Charges	Court Case / Date Filed
1.	6 BALFE, PETER MARSHALL	P00147677	5/9/2010	SC170058A	Found 5/10/2010
2.	7 BARRUS, MICHAEL RAY	P00173530	6/9/2010	No Records for BARRUS, MICHAEL RAY found at this time. (DOB 12/9/1976)	N/A
3.	10 BOISSIERE, DANNY LESHAWN	P00126902	9/16/2009	SC166467A	Found 9/18/2009

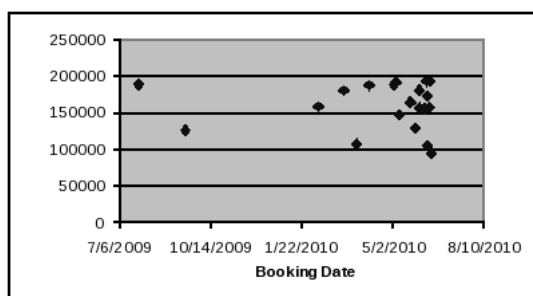


Figure 4:  
Jail ID's correlation with  
Original Booking Dates in  
Marin County

## Discussion

### Data Referring to Non-Existent Municipal Courts

The routine use of non-existent court names as the authority for the arrests and booking of Los Angeles County prisoners is of particular concern, since the Sheriff's Department refused to correct such data, even when it was pointed out to the Sheriff's Department that the data were apparently false on their faces. It is hypothesized that the booking terminals and case management system of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department were established prior to the termination around 2001 of the Municipal Courts in Los Angeles County, California. Therefore, the most plausible explanation for the false "Municipal Court" records is that menus created prior to the termination of such courts were left intact and never updated, and staff routinely select such invalid options, including, but not limited to cases where no valid, honest, and effectual judicial records exist to support the arrest and booking.

Moreover, booking terminals are identified by their location. Therefore, the most plausible explanation for instances such as the false online records pertaining to the former US prosecutor Richard Fine—stating that he was arrested and booked at the non-existent "San Pedro Municipal Court", is that the Sheriff's Department maintains at undisclosed locations terminals which were previously stationed in the municipal courts, even after the respective courts were terminated. Such in-

valid, false and deliberately misleading booking terminals are being utilized to this date—to affect false arrests and false imprisonment—when no legal foundation exists for the confinement.

### **Assessment of the Scope of False Imprisonment in Los Angeles County, Based on Current Surveys**

Los Angeles County, California, is the most populous county in the United States, with over 10 million residents. Accordingly, its county's court and sheriff's department are the largest in the US. Although no direct data were available for the total number of prisoners held by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, it could be safely estimated that tens of thousands of prisoners are falsely held in Los Angeles County alone, resulting from arrests in recent years—with no valid and effectual records, as shown in the current report.

### **Official and Unofficial Reports of Large-Scale False Imprisonment in Los Angeles County, California, and elsewhere in the US**

The results presented in the current report lead to the conclusion that the Sheriff's Department of Los Angeles County is engaged in long-term, large-scale false imprisonment of Los Angeles County residents. Such results are consistent with previous official reports regarding the justice system of Los Angeles County, California. As part of the investigation of the Rampart Corruption Scandal (1998–2000), the framing and false imprisonment of many thousands of people, almost exclusively blacks and Latinos, was established.<sup>xviii, xix</sup> Later, a three-year official report (2003–2006) by the Blue Ribbon Review Panel, published in 2006, concluded, “innocent people remain in prison”.<sup>xx</sup> Then Dean of Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, David Burcham wrote, “...judges tried and sentenced a staggering number of people for crimes they did not commit.”<sup>xxi</sup> The independent report of Prof Erwin Chemerinsky, renowned constitutional scholar and Dean of the University of California Law School concluded, “this is conduct associated with the most repressive dictators and police states... and judges must share responsibility when innocent people are convicted.”<sup>xxii</sup> Hardly any of those who were documented as falsely convicted and falsely imprisoned have been released to date. Judges were documented as objecting to their release.

The results presented here are not unique for Los Angeles County, California, either. The data from Marin County raise the same concerns, although no false court names were employed, and a much smaller number of prisoners is involved.

In the ongoing Kids for Cash scandal, currently unraveling in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, it was exposed that judges collected kickbacks amounting to millions of dollars from privatized jails, in exchange for the false imprisonment of juveniles by the thousand.<sup>xxiii</sup> It is not clear to what degree digital case management and online public access systems facilitated the false imprisonments in Pennsylvania.

It is likely that the justice system and prisons in other parts of the world where transition has been made to digital records are susceptible to abuse as well, similar to that which was documented here in Los Angeles and Marin County, California, in the current report.

## Data Mining as the Key to Public Monitoring of the Justice System

Regardless of the limitations in data mining by the Los Angeles County ICC, and the Marin County Prisoners Booking Log, public access provides a powerful tool for monitoring of the justice system. The simple manual surveys conducted in the current report allowed the demonstration of inequities, which are related to large-scale deprivation of liberty and abuse of human rights.

One should notice that even in a prominent case—like the apparent false imprisonment of Richard Fine—a former US prosecutor—mainstream media to this date have failed to base their reporting on direct examination of the integrity, or lack thereof, of the digital records, relying instead on oral pronouncements by various officials. Such circumstances make patent the need for computing specialists to assume a more prominent role in monitoring the justice system.<sup>xxiv</sup> It is proposed that computing professionals have unique skills that would allow them to be in the forefront of human rights protection in the digital era.

### Proposed Corrective Measures

The following are proposed as guidelines for corrective measures:

- (a) Online public access and case management systems that are critical for the safeguarding of human rights must be subjected to publicly and legally accountable validation (certified, functional logic verification) in all stages of development, through implementation, to any updates and modifications.
- (b) Such systems must be required by law to allow a high level of transparency that would allow ongoing effective public monitoring through data mining, as well as a widely distributed, zero-knowledge approach to system security.
- (c) The public at large must be educated to assume the data mining of systems that are critical for human rights and the stability of democratic government as a civic duty.

### Conclusions

With the transition to administration of the justice system through digital records, the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department established a setup which is routinely found in other parts of the justice system in California and elsewhere in the United States: Legal records are internally held by the authorities in case management systems—a subtype of database management systems, where public access is denied. Public access is routinely provided through a separate, online, public access system. The validity and integrity, or lack thereof, of such a setup of relational databases, is the essence of the deficiencies identified in the current report. The records, which are provided in the online public access system, are neither verified, nor authenticated in any manner at all. Yet the authorities rely on the public's confidence in such records. To compound the problem, this setup of relational databases is employed by the authorities to deny public access to what are public records by law—the honest, true, and valid arrest and booking records of the prisoners.

The results presented in the current report lead to the conclusion that the presentation of such false data in the Los Angeles County IIC was not the outcome of

inadvertent errors, but part of conduct intended to affect false imprisonments and deprivation of Liberty. Beyond the abuse of those who are falsely imprisoned, the mere existence of such conditions in the justice system in Los Angeles and Marin Counties, California, are alleged to be large-scale abuse of the human rights of over 10 million residents of these counties, by the justice system itself.

The findings of the current report are consistent with previous media and official reports of large-scale false imprisonment in Los Angeles County, California, mostly of black and Latino prisoners. The novelty in the current report is only in demonstrating that data mining of such systems allows the public to document the abuses without resorting to complicated and protracted public investigations. Therefore, while digital systems provided simple tools for the justice system to circumvent the law, data mining of the same systems provides a simple and effective tool to demonstrate the corruption of the justice system and large-scale human rights abuses.

Ways and means are readily available whereby the systems fraudulently erected by the justice system authorities with no public oversight at all, could be remedied—through publicly and legally accountable validation (certified, functional logic verification). Regardless, transparency should be required, which would permit routine data mining, which must be viewed as a civic duty. The public at large must perform its duties and obligations and constantly monitor the justice system—to safeguard the integrity of the prisons and protect human rights in the digital era. The computing and informatics community should lead the way.<sup>xv</sup>

## References

- <sup>i</sup> Requests for comments, corrections of a draft of this letter were forwarded by fax on June 3, 2010 to the office Lee Baca - Sheriff of Los Angeles County, Charles McCoy—Presiding Judge, and John A Clarke—Clerk of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. No comments or corrections were received.
- <sup>ii</sup> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 9, states: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.
- <sup>iii</sup> California Code of Regulations, Title 15—Crime Prevention and Correction, Title 15, Article 2, § 3273-4, Article 4, § 1041: <http://inproperinla.com/10-06-13-warrants-booking-penal-code-regulations-s.pdf>
- <sup>iv</sup> Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Inmate Information Center: [http://app4.lasd.org/iic/ajis\\_search.cfm](http://app4.lasd.org/iic/ajis_search.cfm)
- <sup>v</sup> VINELink 2.0: <https://www.vinelink.com/vinelink/initMap.do>
- <sup>vi</sup> The author is grateful to the unnamed Legal Director for his help.
- <sup>vii</sup> Jose Martinez data survey: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/24809956/>
- <sup>viii</sup> Jose Rodriguez data survey: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/25064776/>
- <sup>ix</sup> John Smith data survey: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/24816245/>
- <sup>x</sup> January 2000 Los Angeles Times report of the termination of the Municipal Courts in Los Angeles County, California: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/32446226/>
- <sup>xi</sup> Survey of Los Angeles prisoners data through the VINE system: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/25315610/>, <http://www.scribd.com/doc/28350775/>
- <sup>xii</sup> See v, above.

- xiii Correspondence between Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich and office of Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca—in attempt to gain access to the arrest and booking records of former US prosecutor Richard Fine—held by the Sheriff in a hospital ward under solitary confinement for the past 14 months, and attorney Ronald Gottschalk – held at the time in psychiatric hospital ward: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/25555341/>
- xiv Full Disclosure Network: Attorney Jailed In Attempt to Disqualify L.A. Judge For Taking Bribes, March 4, 2009: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/32458545/>
- xv The requirement for an arrest warrant is embedded in the Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.
- xvi *California Code of Regulations, Crime Prevention and Correction* 3273 (Acceptance and Surrender of Custody) says: Wardens and superintendents must not accept or surrender custody of any prisoner under any circumstances, except by valid court order or other due process of law.
- vii Survey of the Marine County, California Prisoners' Log: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/32981371/>
- xviii Rampart-FIPs (Falsely Imprisoned Persons): Rampart First Trial, PBS Frontline, Rampart False Imprisonments: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/24901612/>
- xix Rampart-FIPs (Falsely Imprisoned Persons). Review: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/24729660/>
- xx Blue Ribbon Review Panel: Rampart Reconsidered, The Search for Real Reform Seven Years Later (2006): <http://www.scribd.com/doc/24902306/>
- xxi Burcham, D. and Fisk, K.: The Rampart Scandal: Policing The Criminal Justice System, *Loyola Law Review*, Vol. 34, pp. 537-543 (2001): <http://www.scribd.com/doc/29043589/>
- xxii Chemerinsky, E: The Criminal Justice System of Los Angeles County, *Guild Practitioner*, Vol. 57, pp. 121-133 NLG (2001): <http://www.scribd.com/doc/27433920/>
- xxiii Debra Cassens Weiss: Ex-Judge to Plead Guilty in Kids-for-Cash Scandal; Is He 'Singing Like a Bird'? *American Bar Association Journal*, April 30, 2010, <http://www.scribd.com/doc/30840581/>
- xxiv Abbie Boudreau, Emily Probst and Dana Rosenblatt: Ex-lawyer jailed 14 months, but not charged with a crime, May 24, 2010 CNN: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/05/24/jailed.lawyer.richard.fine/index.html> See also xv, above. Both reports relied on interviews and failed to examine or report on the records in the case.
- xxv Online petition: Free Richard Fine: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/free-fine>

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## **Short communications**

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# Call for Papers

*Papers to be included in the next issue should be preferably focused on topics related to social-networks in one or more of the following subjects (the list is indicative rather than exhaustive):*

Sentiment/Opinion Analysis in Natural-Language Text Documents

Algorithms, Methods, and Technologies for Building and Analysing Social Networks

Applications in the Area of Social Activities

Knowledge Mining and Discovery in Natural Languages Used in Social Networks

Medical, Economic, and Environmental Applications in Social Networks

*Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Each of the submitted research papers should not exceed 26 pages. All papers are refereed through a peer review process.*

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