

Judge's integrity is unfortunately rare

I had mixed emotions after reading about Judge Eugene Hyman's decision to declare Ramon Vasquez factually innocent (Page 1B, Feb. 25).

Proud, perplexed and concerned. Proud that our justice system worked for Vasquez; and proud to know Judge Hyman a man of heart, soul, mind and integrity since we were classmates at Santa Clara University Law School more than 30 years ago. Perplexed that a judge's ruling is deemed courageous and exceptional, and hence newsworthy, when a jurist does the right thing. In this instance, simply having the spine to stand up to the Santa Clara DA's office.

Finally, I'm concerned that Judge Hyman will be the DA's next target for a blanket "boycott." We need more judges like Gene Hyman who are willing to adjudicate equitably and humanely. Vasquez is just one of too many innocent people caught up in our justice system; and even after being acquitted or having their charges dropped, are otherwise left to live their lives with a Scarlet Letter (A for "arrested") on their head.

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