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### True Justice

“What was it like when you were my age, Grandma?” I ask.

Her eyebrow quivers ever so slightly, kindling a labyrinth of creases swimming across her forehead. Born into an impoverished family in suburban Montreal, Grandma experienced good times and bad times, successes and failures, much like any pre-adolescent. But at school, she faced fear -- fear of going to school, fear of waking up in the morning -- which injected its venom into her veins. She was treated as an outcast and had rocks thrown at her because she was Jewish -- she wasn't “normal.” The classroom swarmed like a beehive of whispers, silent but very tangible, like a cold breeze breathing through blades of grass. Something you can't control, something you were born into, sometimes defines you for the rest of your school, career, even the rest of your life.

Truth is often stranger than fiction. To think that my grandmother, a woman of stories and songs, hugs and FaceTime, could be so traumatized because of blatant prejudice is unnerving. If this case were taken into a partial courtroom under a flawed system, it would be even more disquieting. Here lies the importance of an impartial judicial system, a method where there is no bias, no discrimination, not by age, race, gender, sexuality, religion -- a system of

only reality and the law. To me, an impartial judiciary means unparalleled equality and peace of mind.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.” This beloved doctrine’s subject is ubiquitous in our nation. Equality is the cornerstone of the United States and continues to help our democracy flourish. An impartial judiciary is the epitome of America’s values, as all defendants share the same privileges regardless of differences. Equal rights is important to me because our country is strengthened by the diversity of its citizens. With culturally diverse juries, open-minded judges, and a guiding U.S. Constitution, a nonpartisan judiciary accounts for everything that our Founding Fathers had hoped for our nation.

As a Jewish boy coming from a multicultural family with an ethnic mosaic of friends, an impartial judicial system indicates absolute peace of mind for me. Because impartiality means no discrimination, I do not have to be scared of relatives or classmates being wrongly sentenced solely based on preconceived notions. If our courts were prejudicially skewed, America would not be the melting pot of civilization that it is today. What a wonderful feeling it is to be without fear or distress, surrounded by the relief of knowing I am *safe* from prejudice, discrimination, and unfairness in a courtroom.

An impartial judicial system means a multitude of different things for a multitude of different people. To me, it means equality and peace of mind. It means that all citizens, male or female, black or white, young or old, gay or straight, native-born or naturalized, handicapped or able-bodied, religious or atheist, are entitled to justice under the law in the beautiful, complex and diverse nation we have built together.