



Institute for Communication & Dignity

Law, Language and Responsibility

Author: Detlef Leiss

26 July 2026

Law, Language and Humanity

In a vibrant democracy, the law must never become an excuse for avoiding responsibility. When communication is reduced to legal self-protection, it loses its true purpose: people should seek understanding, not merely protection from liability.

The essence of law is to protect our humanity, not to replace it. When people begin to speak cautiously out of fear of legal consequences, public discourse quietly begins to disappear. Law and language are meant to support one another: the law depends on the clarity of language, and language depends on the confidence that honest expression will not immediately become a legal risk.

To identify injustice is not to accuse—it is to remind society of responsibility and proportion. The rule of law does not require silence until a court has spoken. It requires vigilance long before legal intervention becomes necessary.

Law as a Marketplace

Law should represent an ideal, not a marketplace. Its purpose is to preserve justice, not to maximise profit. Yet when justice becomes a commodity, the meaning of law begins to shift. It no longer serves people; it begins to serve the structures that administer it.



Institute for Communication & Dignity

In a society where legal influence and economic power increasingly converge, justice risks losing its impartiality. Lady Justice raises her blindfold just enough to see who stands before her—and that is the moment when justice becomes a function of wealth rather than principle.

A true constitutional democracy must never measure justice by market value, but by its willingness to hear those without influence. Only when the law protects the weakest does it fulfil its purpose—and only then does it truly serve humanity again.

Knowledge Against Power

I once stood alone against an organisation that believed power could replace knowledge. They came with lawyers, legal departments and engineers; I came with truth and the patience to understand it.

Words do not carry truth; they carry meaning. The language we choose shapes the perspective from which a subject is understood. Long before facts are debated, words influence how reality is perceived.

When I challenged the expert in the language of his own discipline, the balance shifted. Suddenly, it was no longer I who had to justify myself; it was the system that had underestimated me.

Systems do not exist for their own sake. They exist to serve people. Human dignity is not created by loyalty to systems, but by systems that are willing to adapt to the reality of human life. When they fail to do so, they must be recalibrated—or, if necessary, compelled to change through external impulses, including judicial decisions. Knowledge remains the quietest, yet most powerful, opponent of arrogance.



Institute for Communication & Dignity

In that moment I understood that justice is not determined by titles, hierarchies or professional fees. It is determined by the ability to think with clarity, integrity and an open heart.

Law protects rights. Language protects understanding.

A democracy needs both.

Communication is Dignity

Dignity begins where nobody owns the conversation.