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**Legal Help  
For Inmates  
Of Quentin**

An unusual legal service for prisoners, described by a prison spokesman as "a good program for everybody," now is being offered at San Quentin by a group of volunteer law students.

The Colateral Remedies Counselling Project, conceived and staffed by law students and sponsored by the Barristers Club, a group of young local lawyers, aims at helping inmates who have exhausted appeals of their convictions but still feel they should be released or given a new trial.

These inmates must turn to what is called a "colateral attack," which usually takes the form of a writ of habeas corpus. Such a writ tells a judge of a State Superior Court that there were pertinent facts which were not raised at inmate's trial.

If the writ is in proper form and states reasonable facts, the court issues a show

cause order, and a hearing is held. Then, if the prisoner is able to back up the statements in his writ, he may be released or tried again.

#### SCREENING

Marin county records show that inmate writ writers who have studied law books in the prison library annually flood the Marin County Superior Court with about 100 such writs, most of which are routinely denied as "legally frivolous."

What the law students do is screen inmates to see if they actually have a case, and if they do, write the writ properly and free of charge. They then pursue the case through the courts, with the aid of an attorney - adviser.

"If you know how to write a writ, it's easy to get an order to show cause. But if it's patently false, you're in trouble," said Ronald Mallen, a member of the Barristers Club and one of the project's organizers.

Mallen said only 10 per cent of the prisoners who write these writs are making true points. If a writ is falsified, a prisoner may be charged with perjury and, if convicted, he may get an extended sentence.

#### SAVE

Thus the law students may be able to save the courts from having to deal with an influx and may save some prisoners a few years.

"Hopefully, we can get away from some of the antagonism and growing mistrust of attorneys that's coming out of the prisons now," said Thomas Hogan, who administers the program for the Barristers.

He said it could eventually be expanded to include county jails and other state prisons. About 75 students and 15 attorney - advisers are involved in the infant program.

A prisoner who wants an interview can get one by writing to the warden or the Barristers Club.