

- #1:** I can run as long as necessary. Don't underestimate me.
- #2:** Then don't be an idiot. We'll work something out. I promise.
- #1:** *(Laughs a bit.)* Let's just say your credibility is lacking. You go home, talk to that...him/her and I'll get in touch soon.
- #2:** When?
- #1:** Soon.
- #2:** She/he won't like this.
- #1:** Ask me if I care? You just tell him/her that he/she can... tell him/her I said "hi." Now get out.
- #2:** *(Starts to exit.)* I'll see you in court.
- #1:** Looking forward to it.
(#2 exits.)

35. The Client

(At a table in a restaurant. He/she is dressed pretty well, looking somewhat overdressed for where he/she is. He/she takes the last sip of a drink, then calls for a waiter.)

- #1:** Excuse me. *(Pause)* Hey, waiter! My glass seems to be empty. You wanna do something about it? *(#2 enters and goes up to the table and looks at #1. #1 sees him/her.)* You don't look like my waiter, but you'll do. *(#1 hands waiter a glass. Waiter puts it back on the table and sits.)*
- #2:** I've been looking for you everywhere. Where have you been?
- #1:** *(Looks around.)* My first guess would be...here. Then again, in my condition, I might be wrong. I could be there.
- #2:** Well, just for your information, there's a room full of people, not to mention about 15 senior partners who are expecting to see you tonight.
- #1:** Oh, come on. Do you really think that in a room of a hundred plus lawyers, one absent attorney is really going to be noticed?
- #2:** Ordinarily, no. But when said attorney also happens to be the guest of honor, his/her presence is usually expected. Don't you agree, counselor?
- #1:** Your Honor, I object to this line of questioning.
- #2:** On what grounds?
- #1:** On the ground that you're making too much sense and I'm in no mood.
- #2:** Objection overruled.
- #1:** It figures. This just isn't my day.
- #2:** It's not your day?! You were officially made a partner in the firm today. That's what the party is about. Remember?
- #1:** Oh, that's right.

#2: So back to the original question, what happened?

#1: I'll take the fifth...or I'll take a fifth. I always get those two confused.

#2: Come on, Mike/Michelle, what gives?

#1: OK. *(Pause)* Does the name David Stewart mean anything to you?

#2: No. Should it?

#1: No, come to think of it, I guess not. That was before you joined our happy little firm.

#2: Who's David Stewart?

#1: He's a Beverly Hills yuppie, jerk I defended.

#2: Sounds like a great guy.

#1: He's a peach. One day this guy kicks the holy crap out of his wife, she has him arrested for assault and battery, he hires our firm, and I'm assigned to get him off.

#2: Did you?

#1: You bet. On a technicality nobody even remembered existed. I remember thinking what an awful person this guy is and I got him off. And the topper, he did everything he was accused of.

#2: Couldn't you have refused the case?

#1: Not if I wanted to move up in the firm of Lockwood, Fitzgerald, and Scott, I couldn't.

#2: OK, I see where you're at. But this is hardly the first guilty scumbag that's ever walked before.

#1: I know, but the story's not done yet.

#2: What happened?

#1: I was driving over to the banquet tonight and I got a call.

#2: From Stewart?

#1: The one and only.

#2: Don't tell me, he did it again, right?

#1: Wrong.

#2: Well, that's...

#1: He killed her.

#2: He what?

#1: They were having an argument and he decided to cut it short by putting her head through the living room wall. Unfortunately, the human skull doesn't have the apparent rigidity of say...brick.

#2: Oh, god!

#1: So, I go down to the police station, Stewart tells me what happened and wants me to get him out. I told him I'd talk to the partners, I jumped in the car came here, and lived happily ever after.

#2: Have you told the partners?

#1: No. I was hoping they'd try and execute Stewart before I had to.

#2: Not likely. Look, tell them and have someone else assigned to the case.

#1: Can't do it. Stewart said he wanted me and no one else. If I refuse, he'll go to another firm.

#2: Let him go. The other partners will understand.

#1: They might if I worked for the firm of Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, & Tinkerbell.

#2: Maybe you're underestimating them.

#1: Look me in the eye and tell me you honestly believe that? *(#2 doesn't look at him.)* Yeah, I didn't think so.

#2: OK, you're right. They're going to want you to take the case. So take it. Figure out some way to get your mind around the moral ramifications, and defend this guy to the best of your ability. It's your job and it's what Stewart's entitled to.

#1: Says who?

#2: Says this little document called the Constitution. Maybe you've heard of it?

#1: I can't believe you just said that. This has nothing to do with Stewart's constitutional rights.

#2: The hell it doesn't. It's about his right to a fair trial and

competent counsel.

#1: And what about his wife's right to life, liberty, and...you know what, forget the other two. Let's just start with life. She's dead and he did it!

#2: And you're so sure he's going to get off.

#1: Yes.

#2: How do you know?

#1: Because he's got the best justice that money can buy and that's a fact.

#2: So refuse the case! Tell the partners you won't do it and take the consequences.

#1: But...

#2: But what? Moral indignation has its price? Yes, it does, but you can't have it both ways. You want to remain the golden boy/girl, then you do what they tell you and shut up. Otherwise, stand by your principles. They're admirable, but it very well may be costly. It's your call.

#1: You've got this party line down pretty well, don't you?

#2: Not at all. It's just that I can afford to be more objective.

#1: How come?

#2: Because I'm not in your place.

#1: Wanna trade?

#2: Not on a bet. I'd just as soon put off my "crisis of faith" for a while, thank you.

#1: Coward.

#2: And proud of it. Come on, let's go.

#1: Where to?

#2: The dinner. You really should go.

#1: What about Stewart?

#2: It's your night. He's in jail, what's he going to do? I think his...situation will hold until tomorrow morning.

(The two start to get up.)

#1: You're probably right.

#2: No counselor, I'm definitely right.

#1: *(Pause)* Boy, are you cocky.

#2: I know. I learned it from you.

#1: I'm not cocky.

#2: Oh, please, your picture's in the dictionary...