

Lawyer, Lawyer

Bob Naquin





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We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

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LAWYER, LAWYER

By Bob Naquin

CAST

PROSECUTOR: (F/M) Applied for a job at public works and somehow got sent to try this murder case. Loves to play games on her phone.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: (F/M) A bit beyond his/her sell by date but he/she does the best he/she can to defend a defendant who admits she did it.

JUDGE JUDY MOODY: (F) Tries to keep the court in session but it is a bit difficult with two zany lawyers and a defendant that says he/she has done the crime.

BALLIFF: (F/M) Always looking for the truth, the whole truth

DEFENDANT: (F) Julie Slayer very much willing to admit she murdered her husband. But why?

DOCTOR PAYNE: (F/M) Witness

OFFICER MURPHY: (F/M): Dressed to look like a police officer.

THE JURY: Played by the audience

FRED SLAYER: Deceased. No speaking part.

Place

Courtroom where the trial(s) take place.

Time

The present.

LAWYER, LAWYER

ACT 1

Setting: There is a judge's bench with a gavel, a smaller table for the defense with two chairs and a shorter table for the prosecution with two chairs. There is one chair for the witness to sit in.

At Rise: The bailiff is standing next to the judge's bench. The prosecutor is at her table and the defendant and her attorney are at their table.

BAILIFF: All rise. This court is now in session with the somewhat honorable Judge Judy Moody presiding.

(If the audience does not stand)

BAILIFF: Will everyone please rise *(indicating the audience)*. You are all part of this production, so you are going to have to stand up. Judge Moody won't come out unless you stand up. She is funny that way.

(Once the Bailiff gets some or all of the audience to stand up)

BAILIFF: Presenting the honorable, or close to it, Judge Judy Moody.

JUDGE JUDY: *(enters and takes her seat behind the judge's bench. She raps on the table with her gavel.)* You may all be seated. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury *(she indicates the audience)* we have a full slate of cases today, so I ask for your indulgence and patience. I also want to thank you for fulfilling your public duty of serving on jury duty.

In our American system of justice, the trial by jury is considered a cornerstone of our system. Yes, you ladies and gentlemen, a group of people who were not clever enough to get out of jury duty, get to decide the fate of the people brought in front of the court today.

(She looks at the defendant) Good luck with that. Bailiff, what do we have on the calendar this morning?

BAILIFF: Judge Judy our first case is a murder trial. The state of Colorado vs. the defendant, Julie Slayer. The defendant is brought before the court accused of murdering her husband with a butter knife.

JUDGE JUDY: We still try people for murder? I thought murder had been legalized in the last legislative session. I guess not. (*To the defendant*) Please rise. (*The defendant and her counsel rise*) How do you plead to the charges of murdering your husband with a butter knife?

DEFENDANT: (*loudly and angrily*) Of course I did it! That S.O.B. deserved it. He was always complaining about my cooking and saying I couldn't drive. He snored like a buffalo, passed gas, and chewed with his mouth open...but that is not all. What really drove me to it was...

COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENSE: (*trying to quiet her client*) Shush. Don't talk. I do all of the talking here. (*she gets her client to sit down*) Your honor the defendant pleads 'Not Guilty.'

JUDGE JUDY: But she just said she did it.

COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENSE: Yes, your honor. But just because she did it does not mean she is guilty in the American system of Law.

PROSECUTOR: (*jumps up and bangs on her table*) Objection, your honor!

JUDGE JUDY: (*turning to the prosecutor*) What do you object to? The defendant just confessed.

PROSECUTOR: I have to have a reason? I was unaware that I had to have a reason to object. On TV they don't need to have a reason.

JUDGE JUDY: Of course, you have to have a reason. Where did you get your law degree?

PROSECUTOR: Law degree? I was unaware that I had to have a law degree.

JUDGE JUDY: You don't actually have to have a law degree, but how did you get appointed Prosecutor without a degree?

PROSECUTOR: I applied for a job at the department of public utilities and they sent me here.

JUDGE JUDY: (*turning to the defendant*) Your chances are improving by the minute. Just so you know, as presiding judge at this trial I intend for you to get the best justice money can buy. Wink Wink.

DEFENDANT: (*jumping up again*) I had to kill him. It took forever with that butter knife, but I DID it. He was using it to make a PB and J and he got the PB into the J jar. He was ALWAYS getting the PB into the J jar. But that is not why I killed him. Oh no. There was a much bigger reason for sending him on to that big smelly gas cloud in the sky.

COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENSE: (*making her client sit down*) Will you STOP talking? That is my job. I apologize for my client's outburst, your honor.

JUDGE JUDY: Please try to control your client. Is the Prosecution ready to proceed?

PROSECUTOR: (*madly pushing button on her cell phone*) Give-me-just-a-minute-judge. There! I won! Again! eBay I own you. What were you saying, your honor?

JUDGE JUDY: I asked if you were ready to proceed.

PROSECUTOR: (*looking around, confused*) Proceed with what?

JUDGE JUDY: With the murder trial of the accused.

PROSECUTOR: Sure. I guess. I am not really sure what to do but I did stay at a Holiday Inn last night.

JUDGE JUDY: Right. Now you can call your first witness.

PROSECUTOR: (*in a loud voice*) I hereby call my first witness.

JUDGE JUDY: You don't have to yell. According to your witness list, your first witness is Doctor Payne. Is that who you would like to call to the witness stand?

PROSECUTOR: Sure. (*in a loud voice*) Dr. Payne to the witness stand.

JUDGE JUDY: Inside voice please.

(*Dr. Payne enters the stage and stands near the witness chair. The Bailiff approaches.*)

BAILIFF: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

DR. PAYNE: I do.

BAILIFF: Do these pants make me look fat?

JUDGE JUDY: Dr. Payne you do not have to answer that. Bailiff, the lawyers will ask the questions at this trial.

PROSECUTOR: Dr. Payne you performed the autopsy on the deceased did you not?

DR. PAYNE: Yes, I did.

PROSECUTOR: And how many autopsies have you performed on dead people.

DR. PAYNE: All of them.

PROSECUTOR: All of them?

DR. PAYNE: Yes, all of the autopsies I performed were on dead people.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!