

Chalkline 07/22/97

Legal Corner by Jay A. Goldstein

JUDGE WAPNER DEPT: This came to me through the Internet titled "Disorder in the Court". True transcripts from some hilarious courtroom trials as recorded by courtroom shorthand reporters.

Q. "Now, Mrs. Johnson, how was your first marriage terminated?"

A. "By death."

Q. "And by whose death was it terminated?"

Q. "Doctor, did you say he was shot in the woods?"

A. "No, I said he was shot in the lumbar region."

Q. "What is your name?"

A. "Ernestine McDowell."

Q. "And what did your husband do before you divorced him?"

A. "A lot of things I didn't know about."

Q. "Mrs. Smith, do you believe that you are emotionally unstable?"

A. "I should be."

Q. "How many times have you committed suicide?"

A. "Four times."

Q. "Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?"

A. "All my autopsies have been performed on dead people."

Q. "Were you acquainted with the deceased?"

A. "Yes, sir."

Q. "Before or after he died?"

Q. "Officer, what led you to believe the defendant was under the influence?"

A. "Because he was argumentary and he couldn't pronounce his words."

Q. "What happened then?"

A. "He told me, he says, 'I have to kill you because you can identify me.'"

Q. "Did he kill you?"

A. "No."

Q. "Mrs. Jones, is your appearance this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?"

A. "No. This is how I dress when I go to work."

Q. "Did you tell your lawyer that your husband had offered you indignities?"

A. "He didn't offer me nothing; he just said I could have the furniture."

Q. "Could you see him from where you were standing?"

A. "I could see his head."

Q. "And where was his head?"

A. "Just above his shoulders."

Q. "Do you drink when you are on duty?"

A. "I don't drink when I'm on duty, unless I come on duty drunk."

Q. "Are you qualified to give a urine sample?"

A. "Yes, I have been since early childhood."

Q. "Are you sexually active?"

A. "No, I just lie there."

Q. "The truth of the matter is that you were not an unbiased, objective witness isn't it. You too were shot in the fracas."

A. "No, sir. I was shot midway between the fracas and the navel."

Q. "And lastly, Gary, all your responses must be oral. OK? What school do you go to?"

A. "Oral."

Q. "How old are you?"

A. "Oral."

(Ed.note: Thanks to the net and "Transquips" by Richard Lederer.