

TEASER

1           ~~INT. 28TH FLOOR - HALLWAY - DAY~~           1

~~The office. Crowded. Active. People rushing this way,  
that. We slalom through them, toward...~~

2           INT. 28TH FLOOR - DIANE'S OFFICE - DAY           2

START

...Diane's office where three officials, oozing authority,  
power, sit. Two women, one man. Staring straight at us, like  
pashas.

VICTORIA ADLER  
We've been watching you.

DIANE, the person being watched, laughs, leaning against her  
desk.

DIANE  
Now that sounds sinister.

The three smile. The middle one, VICTORIA ADLER (40), is a  
pleasant Chief Justice who carries herself like a queen.

VICTORIA ADLER  
I know how much you hate praise,  
Diane, so please, forgive us. What  
you have done for women-- through  
example, encouragement, and  
perseverance is truly unparalleled.  
Your work on Emily's List, your  
mentoring of young lawyers, your  
shattering of the glass ceiling...

DIANE  
I have a feeling we're coming to a  
very significant "but."

WALLACE GIBBS  
No, a small one. --"But" you now  
have a hard decision to make.

A Democratic macher, WALLACE GIBBS. Meticulous metrosexual.

DIANE  
And that is?

VICTORIA ADLER  
We want you to be a judge.

Diane stares at them. Laughs, surprised:

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

No.

VICTORIA ADLER

Yes.

Victoria, playing emissary, nods to Wallace.

WALLACE GIBBS

We're here as representatives of Democratic ward and committee chairs. We would like to slate you on the upcoming ballot.

DIANE

I... I'm startled.

VICTORIA ADLER

We need more women judges, Diane. We need better judges. Right now we have two lifeguards for every swimmer...

(off Diane's look)

Two judges who understand the law to every one who doesn't. And we need to maintain that ratio.

DIANE

I hope I'm a lifeguard.

VICTORIA ADLER

That's the reason we're here.

Diane looks out toward Will talking with a ring of Associates.

DIANE

And my firm?

VICTORIA ADLER

You'll have to divest, of course.

Diane takes a moment: oh.

WALLACE GIBBS

We don't do smoke-filled rooms anymore, Diane, but we do manage the primary ballot. So if you agree, you'll be the only woman slated, and thus a shoo-in.

(CONTINUED)

VICTORIA ADLER

That's how I became Chief Justice.  
But it means leaving all this  
behind.

DIANE

I-- I don't know what to say.

VICTORIA ADLER

Say yes.

DIANE

Can I take a few days?

VICTORIA ADLER

You can take a week. You've done  
well, Diane. Claim your prize.

END

Diane stares at them, looks out toward Will. And...

~~INT. JUVENILE COURTS BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY~~

~~ALICIA~~

~~Simple assault.~~

~~MARK RICHARDSON~~

~~Six months detention, three years  
probation.~~

~~ALICIA~~

~~Two years probation, no jail time.~~

~~Plea bargaining. ALICIA rushing through a courthouse lobby  
with ASA MARK RICHARDSON (31), college lineman who turned his  
football scholarship to a good advantage.~~

~~MARK RICHARDSON~~

~~You know it's called "bargaining,"  
right? Why am I the only one  
making concessions?~~

~~Alicia smiles: enough of pro now to appreciate the game of law.~~

~~ALICIA~~

~~I just gave you an extra year on  
probation.~~

~~MARK RICHARDSON~~

~~You're not giving me anything on  
detention.~~

(CONTINUED)

START

36

INT. 28TH FLOOR - DIANE'S OFFICE - DAY

36

Diane. Still with the same distracted look on her face. The three powerful visitors are back, going over memos, legal pads: Victoria Adler, Wallace Gibbs, and a third:

WALLACE GIBBS

And Sheffrin-Marks? Your client or Will's?

DIANE

Both of ours.

Victoria trades a look with her two cohorts.

VICTORIA ADLER

But he brought it in?

DIANE

Yes. Why?

VICTORIA ADLER

We would rather it not be you. It doesn't look good, representing a pharmaceutical company against 300 working class plaintiffs.

Diane nods: gets it. Doesn't like it, but gets it.

WALLACE GIBBS

And your name, "Lockhart"? That's an English name?

VICTORIA ADLER

We don't need to go into that now.

DIANE

What's wrong with my name?

WALLACE GIBBS

The electorate is 19% Irish. They go for an Irish name.

Diane chuckles.

VICTORIA ADLER

I know. The things we have to think about. I think a speech to the Irish-American Heritage Center handles that problem.

(CONTINUED)

Diane gets up. Uncomfortable. Victoria notices this, mentions to the other two:

VICTORIA ADLER (CONT'D)  
Could you give us a minute?

Gibbs and the other one nod, get up, exit. Leaving Victoria and Diane.

VICTORIA ADLER (CONT'D)  
What's wrong?

DIANE  
Do you know Henry Baxter?

VICTORIA ADLER  
Yes.

DIANE  
Juvenile court.

VICTORIA ADLER  
Yes, I know. You have a Junior Associate accusing him of racism.

Diane looks toward Victoria, for the first time realizing she may not have a friend here.

DIANE  
No, biased sentencing.

VICTORIA ADLER  
I'm glad you brought it up, Diane. That's what I like about you. Very direct. I was going to talk to you about it. You need to talk to her.

DIANE  
Who?

VICTORIA ADLER  
Your Junior Associate. Ask her to apologize to Baxter.

DIANE  
You're kidding?

VICTORIA ADLER  
No.

Silence. The two staring at each other.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

You said you wanted to get rid of the swimmers. More lifeguards.

VICTORIA ADLER

I did. Baxter is a lifeguard.

DIANE

I-- But he acts in contravention to the law.

VICTORIA ADLER

Well, that's a matter of opinion.

DIANE

No, it's not. It's a fact.

VICTORIA ADLER

Judges don't go up against each other, Diane. You can't question a sitting judge.

DIANE

Yes, but you can. You're the Chief Justice.

Victoria stares at Diane...

VICTORIA ADLER

I want to know that you're serious about running, Diane. That you're serious about being a judge.

DIANE

I thought I told you I was.

VICTORIA ADLER

Yes, now you have to act like you are. Talk to your Junior Associate. It's one kid sentenced. That's all. Don't overturn the apple cart because of one kid.

END And with that Victoria leaves. Diane stares after her, stunned.

END OF ACT TWO