

D.A. JOSH PEYTON_M_40s-50s+ RECURRINGACT II

FADE IN:

12 INT. JUDGE WINSTON'S COURTROOM - MORNING (**FORMERLY SC. 23**)

12

START

Not yet in session; LOTS OF LAWYERS, CLIENTS, PEOPLE MILLING ABOUT. WE FIND HARRY, with D.A. JOSH PEYTON, forties, leaning over the prosecutor's table, rushing through some last-second paperwork. He speaks quickly.

PEYTON

(not looking at her)

What do you mean, let him go, you kidding me, you kidding me?

HARRY

I'm not saying let him go without consequences--

PEYTON

Yeah, just without jail, lemme tell you, counsel, jail is the only consequence these people understand.

HARRY

These people?

PEYTON

Oh, please, gonna make it a black thing now, gonna make it a black thing, gimme a break, gimme a break, third offense, I'll give you a year, best I can do, best I can do.

HARRY

Yeah, the thing is if he gets any time he'll get expelled from college...

PEYTON

Wish I could help you.

HARRY

It doesn't really sound like you wish you could help me, Mr. Peyton. In fact, it sounds more like you wish I'd bugger off. Is that what you really wish?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

PEYTON

What, you wanna make sport of me now, that it? That it? 'Cause I gotta tell you, you're a slightly bigger target at the moment, you think I don't know the book on you? Hot-shot corporate lawyer suddenly goes cartoon-happy, now you're in here defending drug addicts? What's that? What's that,
(to a PASSING COLLEAGUE)
how you doin', Sal,
(back to Harry)
what's that?

HARRY

Mr. Peyton. This boy needs a break.

PEYTON

Yeah, well, don't we all, lemme tell you, if you think you're gonna get no time for a three-time loser -- not gonna happen, not gonna happen.

HARRY

(almost avuncular)

Look. I'm no expert on criminal law. But more times than not, trials come down to which lawyer a jury likes more and my feeling is they'll look at me and they'll look at you. And they'll tumble to something you know all too well and which I'm beginning to suspect.

PEYTON

Which is?

HARRY

You're an asshole.

END

A beat, as he stares. And breaks into a thin, sickly smile. Like a cat who's about to swallow a canary.

CUT TO:

13 INT. SHOE STORE/LAW OFFICE - MORNING - (COMBO NEW & SC 28)

13

Jenna deals with DELLA; Adam is half-under his desk, plugging in lamps, computers, etc. Tiffany works at her desk.

(CONTINUED)