



# MOCK TRIAL EXERCISES

Featuring winning cases from the  
New Jersey State Bar Foundation's

**Law Fair 2024**  
**COMPETITION**

FOR GRADES 3—6



# PREFACE

Since 1992, the **New Jersey State Bar Foundation** has sponsored a unique, law-related education opportunity for elementary school students — the Law Fair Competition.

Students in grades three through six are invited to create original mock trial cases. The cases are judged on the basis of originality and educational value in teaching students about their legal rights and responsibilities. Winners are selected in each grade level. The trials are then conducted before student audiences at special Law Fair programs in the spring. The third- through sixth-grade audiences serve as juries.

Following are the winning students' cases from the Law Fair 2024 Competition. They may be used as a guide to prepare a submission to the Law Fair Competition or as a classroom exercise. Law Fair helps to fulfill civics education requirements, such as New Jersey Learning Standard 6.3.8 CivicsPR.5, engagement in simulated democratic processes which includes judicial proceedings.

Please note that some of the cases may contain “laws” created by the students for the purposes of this competition, which may not necessarily be actual laws. Since these mock trials were written by children, the content should not be considered technically accurate.

*These materials are produced for educational purposes only. To make the scenarios more meaningful and allow students to reflect on actual conflicts they may confront, the submissions sometimes touch upon issues reported in some of the challenging news stories of the day; however, please note all characters, names, events and circumstances are fictitious. No resemblance or reference to real individuals, events or circumstances is intended or should be inferred.*

Because this booklet contains cases written by students from third through sixth grades, teachers should review the cases written by students in the upper grades before distribution in order to determine whether they are appropriate for younger children.

Law Fair has won national recognition for educational excellence from the American Bar Association and the American Society of Association Executives.

This project is made possible by funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.

If you would like to participate in the Law Fair Competition, please call 732-937-7519 or e-mail [sboro@njsbf.org](mailto:sboro@njsbf.org).

For information about other free, law-related education services available from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, visit us online at [njsbf.org](http://njsbf.org).

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# THE CASE OF THE MISSING TIP JAR: STATE V. TOBEY PIE

## SCHOOL

Stonybrook  
Kinnelon  
Grade 3  
First Place

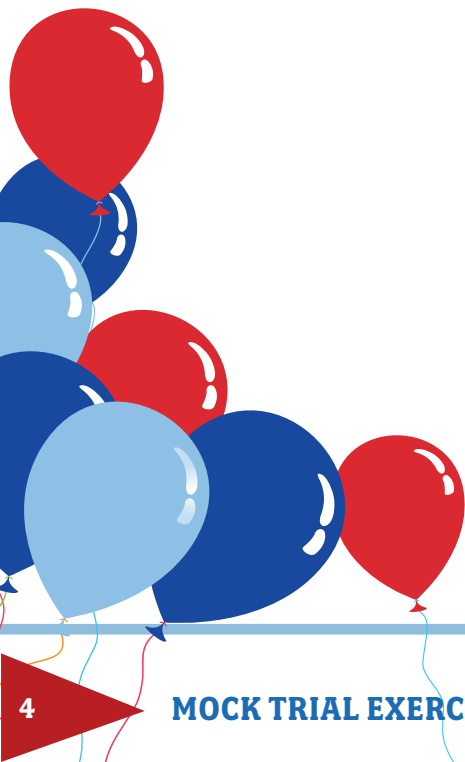
## TEACHER

Sarah Reinmund

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## STUDENTS

Jack Bauer  
Jacob Levitt  
Logan Papendick  
Ella Wolowec



## FACTS

The Pizza Palace, in Kinnelon, New Jersey has a tip jar by the cash register. Owner Joe Dough had just finished counting up the tips which equaled \$75. On the night of November 15, 2022, at 7 p.m., the Kinnelon Puppies were celebrating winning the 8-9 year-old championship football game. The coach and his 24 players were having pizza and sodas at the Pizza Palace. Coach John was so impressed by the service that he put two \$100 bills in the tip jar.

Customers Tobey Pie and his mother Linda Pie were eating pizza at the table near the crowd. Linda was very cautious of what she let her son do, so Tobey could not sit next to his friends on the team. Linda left for the bathroom. Penelope Oven, one of the staff members at Pizza Palace, started talking about the dress that she wanted to buy. Linda heard Penelope talking about the dress.

While his mom was still in the bathroom, Tobey took another bite of pizza and got sauce on his shirt. Tobey ran over to the pizza counter to get napkins to clean off his shirt, but it just smeared. Tobey asked his best friend Marshall Cheese for his extra football jersey so he could wear it instead of his ruined shirt.

At the same time, one of the football players spilled salt all over the floor. Penelope cleaned it up. She was under the table cleaning for a long time.

As Tobey was going back to his table, he found three \$10 bills on the ground. When his mom, Linda, came back from the restroom, Tobey excitedly showed his mom the three \$10 bills in his hands. Linda told her son that he must ask the owner if it was his money. At this time, Joe Dough noticed that the tip jar was missing from the counter. He asked everyone in the restaurant if they had seen the tip jar, but no one had.

At 8 p.m. that night, Penelope found the empty tip jar under a table near where the football players had been sitting. Joe Dough is accusing Tobey Pie of stealing the money from the tip jar.

## ISSUE

Did Tobey Pie steal the money from the tip jar at the Pizza Palace?

## WITNESSES

### ***For the Prosecution***

Penelope Oven

Joe Dough

### ***For the Defense***

Tobey Pie

Linda Pie

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### ***Testimony of Penelope Oven***

My name is Penelope Oven. I am one of the employees at the Pizza Palace. At 6:50 p.m. a boy and his mom (Tobey and Linda Pie) came in and sat down. I was cleaning up one of the tables when the Kinnelon Puppies football team came into the restaurant. I came over and showed them where to sit. The coach went to the counter to place his order. I was surprised when I saw the coach shove two \$100 bills right into the tip jar.

The excited kids were acting crazy. One of the boys at the other table spilled salt all over the floor. I went over to the counter to grab some paper towels. I walked back to the football players' table and cleaned up the salt. It was all under the table. I saw Tobey leaving the football players' table and then stop and pick something up off the floor. At 8:00 p.m. I was ready to close up the restaurant when I found the tip jar empty on the floor under the football players' table. I put the empty jar back on the counter and left.

### ***Testimony of Joe Dough***

My name is Joe Dough and I am the owner of Pizza Palace. I have a tip jar on the

counter because my staff works so hard. I was excited that we already had \$75 in the tip jar before the football team walked in. I went to get a pizza ready, and when I came back to the front counter, the tip jar was gone! I had no idea what was going on! A kid, Tobey Pie, came over to me holding three \$10 bills in his hand and said he found them on the floor. I looked everywhere, but didn't find the tip jar. I asked the kid where the tip jar was and the rest of the money. Tobey said he had no idea what I was talking about.

Just then I saw the kid's mom come over to the counter. I told her that I had counted the tip jar money, so I was positive that more money was missing. But strangely the tip jar and rest of the money were gone from the counter.

Later, Penelope was cleaning up the restaurant, and very surprisingly, she found the empty tip jar on the floor. I knew Penelope wanted a new dress, but I know that Penelope would not take any money out of the tip jar.

### ***Testimony of Tobey Pie***

My name is Tobey Pie. I was a customer at the time with my mom. All of a sudden a bunch of kids came in screaming and holding a trophy, including my best friend Marshall Cheese. It was the Kinnelon Puppies football team. I was enjoying my delicious slice of pepperoni pizza, minding my own business, when a glob of sauce fell on my new, cool Nike shirt. So I ran over to the pizza counter to get napkins to clean off my shirt, but it just smeared. Then I went to the football table. I asked Marshall Cheese for his extra football jersey so I could wear it instead of my ruined shirt. I was excited since I was also wearing a football jersey like the rest of the team.

As I was walking back to my table, my foot got stuck on something. I checked to see

what it was (thinking it could be gum) and, to my surprise, I found three crisp \$10 bills. I looked to my left and to my right to make sure no one had dropped the money.

Just then, my mom came back from the bathroom. Shouting with excitement, I told mom that I found three \$10 bills on the ground! My mom was shocked! I told her that I just picked them up from the ground. My mom told me someone must have dropped them and to give the money to the man at the counter.

I walked up to the counter and gave the money to the man (Joe Dough). Once I gave it to him, Mr. Dough asked me where the rest of the money was. I did not know what he was talking about. I only found \$30. I didn't see any tip jar. My mom heard the conversation and came over to tell Joe that she raised me well, and I would never have stolen the rest of the money.

I did see a person that was cleaning under the table with a name tag that said Penelope. Yes, I was at Pizza Palace at that exact moment, but I DID NOT steal any tip jar money!

### ***Testimony of Linda Pie***

My name is Linda Pie. I was a customer at the Pizza Palace on November 15, 2022. I was in the bathroom while my son, Tobey Pie, was eating his pizza. When I came out of the bathroom, Tobey came to me and said he found three \$10 bills on the floor. He was jumping up and down with excitement.

I wondered why Tobey had a Kinnelon Puppies football jersey on. He explained that he got sauce on his shirt and it smeared. So, he went to Marshall to borrow a jersey. Then his foot got stuck on three \$10 bills as he was walking back to our table.

I told Tobey to give the money to the man at the counter. I heard Joe Dough ask Tobey where the tip jar was. I ran to the

counter and told Joe that my son did not steal anything! He was raised to be good and honest.

When I was in the bathroom, I heard people talking about a dress in the mall and a female voice said she wanted the dress. I wonder if that's where the rest of the money is.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

The prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of stealing the money from the tip jar at the Pizza Palace.

## **SUB-ISSUES**

1. How did the tip jar get on the floor?
2. Where is the rest of the money?
3. Did Penelope take the money from the tip jar?
4. Did Tobey keep the extra tip jar money?
5. Could one of the football players have taken the money?
6. Did anyone else see the tip jar disappear from the counter?

## **CONCEPTS**

1. Burden of proof - beyond a reasonable doubt
2. Credibility of witnesses

## **LAW**

N.J.S.A. 2C:20-3 - Theft by unlawful taking or disposition

a. Movable property. A person is guilty of theft if he unlawfully takes, or exercises unlawful control over, movable property of another with purpose to deprive him thereof.

If the theft is between \$200-\$500, the crime is a 4th degree felony. The fine could be up to \$10,000 and up to 18 months in jail.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<https://rosenblumlaw.com/our-services/criminal-defense/theft-by-unlawful-taking-in-new-jersey/>

Theft Penalties



# THE CASE OF THE MISSING ROLEX

## SCHOOL

PS#25 Nicolaus Copernicus  
Jersey City  
Grade 3  
Second Place

## TEACHER

Stephannie Lopez

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## STUDENTS

Anjana Boopathi  
Jush Borad  
Noah Bueno Lopez  
Xiaraliz Carranza  
Arhan Dey  
Gracie Galli  
Nolan Harris  
Shivam Joshi  
Sidiksha Kasturi  
Anabiya Khan  
Dante Lopez-Obispo  
Brianna Martinez

Alan Massol  
Pedro Medina  
Malak Mossad  
Jaswitha Shri Mukilan  
Dhikshit Nukalwar  
Mensi Patel  
Zia Patel  
Henil Rana  
Kaiden Sanchez  
Inaaya Yaseen  
Sandy Zaytoun

## FACTS

On November 28, 2023, in the Newport Mall in Jersey City, New Jersey at approximately 11:30 a.m. a Rolex watch was reported missing from the store, Diamond's Place. The manager of the store, John Shard, reported it missing. A woman, Violet Yascell, came into the store and asked to see the watch. The store clerk, Jessica Cruise, helped her. She had to unlock a case so she could see the watch. At that time, another guest, June Ace, came into the store and asked for help with another piece of jewelry. When Jessica came back to where Violet was, she noticed the watch was missing and immediately told the store manager, Mr. Shard. June reported that she saw Violet return the watch and give it to the manager. The store manager says the watch was not returned to him.

## ISSUE

A watch was missing from the jewelry store, Diamond's Place.

## WITNESSES

### *For the Prosecution*

John Shard  
Jessica Cruise

### *For the Defense*

Violet Yascell  
June Ace

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### *Testimony of Jessica Cruise*

My name is Jessica Cruise. I am 30 years old. I have worked at Diamond's Place for four years. This is the third jewelry store I have worked at. On the morning of November 28, 2023, a woman (Violet Yascell) came in. She asked to see a Rolex watch. I had to get the key to unlock the case. I took the watch from the case and gave it to her to look at.

Meanwhile, another woman, June Ace, came into the store and needed help with a ring. I helped her and when I went back to

the watch case, both Violet and the watch were gone. I immediately told my manager, John Shard.

### *Testimony of John Shard*

My name is John Shard. I am 28 years old. I have worked at Diamond's Place for two years. I have been the manager for the past year. I was working my usual shift from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on November 28, 2023. I remember the store was busy due to the Black Friday sale that we were having. I was working with my saleswoman, Jessica Cruise. I was on the phone having my weekly phone call with the regional manager. Jessica was helping two customers at the same time. She was helping someone with a Rolex and someone else with a ring. Shortly before 11:30 Jessica came over and told me that the Rolex and the customer looking at the Rolex were missing.

### *Testimony of June Ace*

My name is June Ace. I am 26 years old. On November 28, 2023, I was in the Newport Mall shopping for a gift for my mom. I decided to go to Diamond's Place and look for a ring. I walked into the jewelry store and I remember a woman (Violet) was looking at a watch at a different jewelry case. I asked the store clerk, Jessica, for some help with a ring. I was explaining to her that it was for my mom and that her birthstone was ruby.

She went into the case and took out two different rings for me to look at. I saw Violet walk over to the store manager, John Shard, and return the watch to him. She then walked out of the store without buying anything.

I noticed Jessica looked around and went to go talk to John in a state of panic. I then called Jessica over to me so I could make my purchase and explained to her that I saw Violet return the watch to the manager, Mr. Shard.

## **Testimony of Violet Yascell**

My name is Violet Yascell. I am 21 years old. I went to Diamond's Place in Jersey City to look at a Rolex. I wanted to buy my brother a Rolex for Christmas. I had to work at 12 so I had to make it quick. When I walked into the store, I asked the store clerk (Jessica) to see the Rolex. Jessica went to get the key and then unlocked the case. Jessica gave me the watch to look at and went to help another customer. I liked the watch but I felt like it was a little too expensive. I wanted to give the watch back to Jessica, but she was busy so I walked over to John, who was on the phone, and handed it to him.

I then walked out of the store and went to work. I did not steal the watch. The store manager was irresponsible for being distracted on the phone and not immediately putting the watch back. I have no idea what he did with the watch after I handed it over.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

The prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that there was intentional theft from the jewelry store, Diamond's Place.

## **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Were there any other eyewitnesses?
2. Which witness is more credible?
3. Is the employee responsible for leaving the customer unattended with such an expensive item?

## **CONCEPTS**

1. Burden of proof
2. Credibility of witnesses

## **LAW**

In New Jersey, shoplifting is governed by N.J.S.A. 2C:20-11 and can range from a disorderly persons offense to a second degree crime. The degree of crime in which you are charged depends upon the amount of monetary loss involved in the theft. If the property in question amounts to less than \$200, then it is a disorderly persons offense and carries the potential for up to 6 months in jail.

- 4th degree shoplifting - \$200 - \$500  
Up to 18 months in jail
- 3rd degree shoplifting - \$500 - \$75,000  
Up to 3-5 years in prison
- 2nd degree shoplifting - more than \$75,000  
Up to 5-10 years in prison

The watch was the Rolex Oyster Perpetual Model. It had a value of \$8,622.00. We would be looking at a 3rd degree shoplifting offense with up to 3-5 years in prison.

Source: <https://www.lslawyers.com/n-j-s-a-2c-20-11-shoplifting.html>



# THE CASE OF THE STOLEN SECRET RECIPE

## SCHOOL

PS# 25 Nicolaus Copernicus  
Jersey City  
Grade 3  
Honorable Mention

## TEACHER

Christina Cole

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## STUDENTS

Raahil Aalam  
Ishika Aswal  
Rose Camacho  
Marketa Cunningham  
Jacob Fontan  
Angel Diaz  
Shreyas Gowda  
Reem Hassan  
Ericka Lala  
Amanda Lin  
Autumn Lopez  
Ayaan Morshed

Samrudh Nandakumar  
Anay Pandya  
Dhavan Patel  
Vidhi Patel  
Lucas Ramirez  
Keira Rose  
Alexa Serrano  
Sanvika Sunkara  
Gianna Torres  
Samarth Wagh  
Tooba Yasir

## FACTS

Every Friday the third-grade students looked forward to dumplings on the school lunch menu. Every student from the school loved to eat the dumplings on Friday! This dish was the secret recipe of one of the lunch ladies, Sara Dough. Students would ask Ms. Dough for the recipe but she always said, “I’m sorry but it’s my family’s secret recipe and I will never give out my recipe!”

Jessica Steam and Jack Brown were at lunch and after they ate the dumplings, they wanted more chocolate milk. They went to ask the cafeteria lady if they could have milk. When they went to ask Ms. Dough, they saw the secret dumpling recipe on the counter inside the cafeteria office. Jack and Jessica looked at each other and said, “Do you think that’s the secret recipe?” “I don’t know?” Jack said. Ms. Dough came back and gave them the milk. Jack went back to his seat with his milk and Jessica stayed to tie her shoes. Ms. Dough went to serve more students lunch.

When Ms. Dough returned, she noticed that her secret recipe was missing. She was looking frantically around the cafeteria for the paper. The other lunch ladies were helping her search as well.

Jessica returned to her lunch table with a crumpled piece of paper that another third-grade student saw her put back into her lunchbox. Her friend asked her what that piece of paper was and Jessica said it was a note from her friend in the other class. Her friend has seen her get notes from her friend on the other side of the cafeteria in the past, but it seemed fishy that the recipe was missing and she had a piece of paper with her during that time.

## ISSUE

Did Jessica Steam steal the secret dumpling recipe and put it in her lunchbox?

## WITNESSES

### *For the Prosecution*

Sara Dough

Alice Crumble

### *For the Defense*

Jessica Steam

Jack Brown

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### *Testimony of Sara Dough*

My name is Sara Dough. I am a cafeteria cook in the school. I’ve been a cook for over 20 years. My family has a secret dumpling recipe that I’ve been using in school for a long time. The students love when it’s Friday because that is dumpling day. I come in early on Fridays to make my dumplings because I know how much the students enjoy my secret recipe.

I usually hide my recipe in a locked drawer in the cafeteria office, but since we were short workers today, I forgot to put it back in the drawer afterwards. I left it on the counter in the open that lunch period. When I was in the office, two students named Jessica and Jack came to ask for another chocolate milk. I went to get them milk from the refrigerator and gave each of them one. Jack walked back to the table and Jessica stopped to tie her shoes.

I went to help the other ladies serve lunch since we were short-handed. I got sidetracked and forgot to put the recipe back in the drawer.

When I came back to the office after the third-grade lunch period was ending, the recipe was missing from where I left it.

I shouted, “My secret recipe is missing!” Everyone in the cafeteria heard me yell. All of the third-graders’ heads turned when I shouted.

Jessica and Jack were the only students in my office during the day. I’ve known these two students since they were in kindergarten and I hope they didn’t take my secret recipe! Jessica’s mom has been asking me for my recipe for years and I always say, “Sorry, it’s a family secret!”

### ***Testimony of Alice Crumble***

My name is Alice Crumble. Today, when I was having lunch, Jessica went to ask Sara Dough for more chocolate milk. When she came back, I saw a crumbled piece of paper that she was trying to hide in her hand where she shoved it in her lunchbox. I asked her, “What is that paper?” She said, “The paper is from my friend in the other class. I wanted her phone number for a playdate.” Jessica’s face was red and I felt she was lying to me.

I know she’s up to something because when Jessica lies or does something that she knows is wrong, her face turns red. I know because, in second grade, she took my friend’s snack from her lunch bag and then denied that she took it. I saw her take my friend’s snack and eat it. She didn’t know that I was watching her. The teacher asked her if she had taken her snack and she said, “No,” with her bright red face.

I’d like to believe that my friend wouldn’t take the recipe, but from my experience, whenever Jessica has that red face, I know she’s lying!

### ***Testimony of Jessica Steam***

My name is Jessica Steam and I’m a third-grade student. I went to ask the lunch lady for more chocolate milk with my friend Jack. When we went to ask Ms. Dough for more

chocolate milk, she told me that my mom had seen her outside that morning and asked her for her secret dumpling recipe because she knew how much I love dumplings. My birthday was coming up in two weeks and my mom wanted to make them for my birthday dinner. Ms. Dough said she told my mom that it was a secret recipe and unfortunately, she would not share the recipe with her.

After she gave us our milk, we both saw what seemed to be the secret recipe on the counter. Jack went back to his seat and I had to tie my shoes. On the way back to my seat, I went to see my friend from another class, who gave me her phone number. I wanted it because my birthday is coming up and I wanted to invite her to my party and have a playdate with her. As I got her number, the teacher working lunch duty told me to get back to my seat. My face turned red because I hate to get yelled at, especially by teachers!

I went back to my seat with my blushed face and Alice asked why my face was so red. I said, “The teacher just yelled at me to go back to my seat.” Alice said, “I hate getting yelled at too.” We continued to eat our lunch together and then the lunch bell rang.

### ***Testimony of Jack Brown***

My name is Jack Brown and I’m a third-grade student and friends with Jessica Steam. Me and Jessica went to Ms. Dough to ask for more chocolate milk. We saw the secret recipe on the counter in her office. When Ms. Dough came back with our milk, I went back to my table, but then I told Jessica that her shoes were untied, so she stayed back to tie them. When I went back to my table, I saw Jessica go over to her friend’s table from another third-grade class.

When she went to another table, I heard the teacher yell at Jessica to go back to her table to finish eating her lunch. Jessica hates

to get yelled at and her face always turns bright red when she gets embarrassed. She came back to the table red as a tomato. I asked her if she was OK and she said yes. She told me that she went to get her friend's phone number for her birthday party that was coming up. She also wanted to have a playdate this weekend but didn't have her number. Our friend Alice seemed jealous that Jessica wanted her phone number because Alice always wanted to play with Jessica on the weekends.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

The prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that there was intentional theft from the cafeteria.

## **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Did the cafeteria have any cameras pointing to the cafeteria office?
2. Did they ask any of the students during the third-grade lunch period if they saw anyone go into the office besides Jack and Jessica?
3. Did anyone see Jessica's friend write her phone number on the paper that she brought back to her table?
4. Whose table is the closest to the cafeteria office? Jessica or Jessica's friend?
5. Did the teacher who told Jessica to go back to her seat see her approach her friend with a paper in her hand?

## **CONCEPTS**

1. Burden of proof
2. Credibility of witnesses

## **LAW**

2C:20-3. Theft by unlawful taking or disposition

a. Movable property. A person is guilty of theft if he unlawfully takes, or exercises unlawful control over, movable property of another with purpose to deprive him thereof.



# STATE V. MRS. FAKE

## SCHOOL

Chesterfield Elementary  
Chesterfield  
Grade 4  
First Place

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## TEACHER

Nicole DiMaiuta

## STUDENTS

Juliana Baker  
Eliza Morgan  
Ansh Nagesh  
Vihaan Patel  
Siddharth Prashant  
Kensi Stevens

## FACTS

On Wednesday, February 10, 2019, at 3:45 p.m., Mrs. Fake went to Target in Bordentown, New Jersey to go shopping. Mrs. Fake is 35 years old, has three children, and a husband named Mr. Fake. Two of their children were sick, so Mrs. Fake went to Target because she needed supplies like medicine to care for them. Mrs. Fake got fired recently from her job working at a bank and hasn't been successful finding another job. Her husband, Mr. Fake, stays at home and takes care of the children.

At Target, Mrs. Fake went straight to Aisle 14 and started looking for the medicine that she needed for her children. After that, she went to the cashier, Cash Ear, where he rang her up and told her her total. It was \$49.99 and Mrs. Fake paid with cash using a \$100 bill. Cash Ear started to check the bill to see if it was real and he noticed something off about it. Cash Ear pulled out his counterfeit pen and made a mark on the bill. It made a black mark, so he called over Steven Visor, his supervisor, to get a second opinion. Steven Visor used the counterfeit pen again on the bill and this time it made a dark yellow color. Now, Mrs. Fake is being accused of the crime of forgery using counterfeit money.

## ISSUE

Is Mrs. Fake guilty of committing the crime of forgery?

## WITNESSES

### ***For the Prosecution***

Cash Ear  
Steven Visor

### ***For the Defense***

Mr. Fake  
Mrs. Fake

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### ***Testimony of Cash Ear***

My name is Cash Ear, I am 17 years old, and I live in Bordentown, NJ. I've lived here all of my life and currently attend Bordentown Regional High School. I needed a job to save up some money for college, and saw a sign outside of Target that said "Now Hiring." The next day, I went into the store and applied for the job. I've now been working at Target for nine months and really like it so far. Since working there, I've saved up a lot of money and my supervisor, Steven Visor, has been really helpful and has become a close friend of mine.

On Wednesday, February 10, 2019, I got scheduled to work the evening shift, which started at 4 p.m. It was a pretty slow day, so I didn't have to ring up that many people. Then, at around 4:19 p.m., a lady headed over to the cash register with a bunch of medicine. I let her know that her total came out to \$49.99. After that, she reached into her purse and pulled out a \$100 bill.

Whenever I am given a large bill, I always have to check it, so I held it up to the light to make sure it was real. When I did that, I noticed it looked a bit off, so I grabbed my counterfeit pen. When I made a mark on the bill, it turned black, which means that the bill was fake. I was in awe of the color because I've never had a customer pay with a fake bill before. I was so confused and thought a more experienced person should double check it for me, so I called over my supervisor, Steven Visor.

Mrs. Fake kept asking me, "What's happening?" Her face turned bright red. I could tell she was frustrated because I was taking a long time and didn't know what to say to her. Finally, Steven Visor came over and used the counterfeit pen again on the bill. This time, the mark turned a shade of

dark yellow. Steven whispered for me to call the police just to be safe and held up the bill in front of Mrs. Fake to tell her that it might not be real. Mrs. Fake started yelling that the bill was real and stormed out of the store. The mark on the bill proves that Mrs. Fake is guilty of committing the crime of forgery using counterfeit money and is trying to get away with it.

### ***Testimony of Steven Visor***

My name is Steven Visor, I am 43 years old, and live in Bordentown, NJ. Nine years ago, I moved from Hamilton to Bordentown because my old job at Walmart wasn't paying me enough. I kept applying for jobs and luckily found this one at Target. I really wanted to get promoted once I started working there in order to make more money. I made sure to always try my best to help the customers and four years into my new job, my manager finally promoted me to the role of supervisor. I love my job because I love helping people, getting them what they need, and all of my coworkers are really nice as well. One of my favorite coworkers is Cash Ear, one of our cashiers. Cash Ear is hardworking, always listens, and makes me laugh, which is why we've become very close.

On Wednesday, February 10, 2019, it was another normal day at Target. As soon as I walked in at around 4 p.m., I headed towards my office, grabbed a coffee, checked the security cameras, and not long after, I got called to the cash register. My friend, Cash Ear, called me over to his register and had a worried look on his face. As I was walking over to the counter, I noticed a lady standing next to Cash Ear, who looked quite impatient and frustrated.

Once I got there, Cash Ear called me behind his register and whispered that this woman's \$100 bill looked a bit suspicious, so

he used his counterfeit pen. When he made a mark on the bill, he told me that it turned black! I was definitely surprised when he told me this, so then I pulled out my pen to make another mark. This time when I did it, it showed a dark yellow color, so I asked my employee to call the cops to be safe. Then, I held up the bill to show the customer that it could be fake. This woman's face turned bright red with anger and she started yelling, "This is outrageous! Are you trying to frame me for something I didn't do?"

After that, she stormed out of the store without letting me say another word to her. I tried to run after her, but she was gone. Later, the police showed up and I showed them the bill and security footage. Why was Mrs. Fake so angry if her bill was actually real? That's why the color of the marks on the bill and her anger prove that Mrs. Fake is guilty of committing the crime of forgery using counterfeit money.

### ***Testimony of Mr. Fake***

My name is Mr. Fake and I am 36 years old. I live in Bordentown, New Jersey with my amazing family, which includes my wife, Mrs. Fake, and three children. Two of my children are twins and are two years old and one is three years old, so they aren't in school yet. I used to have a job working in construction for seven years, but got really hurt and am still recovering.

Then, one day my wife came home heartbroken because she was let go from her job. Now, I am a stay-at-home dad and am able to watch the kids while my wife goes out and looks for a new job. Being a dad is wonderful because I get to take care of my children and I really enjoy the fact that I can stay home and see them more than if I had to go to work.

One month later, on Wednesday, February 10, 2019, two of our children fell

sick with the flu; one of the twins and the three-year-old. We had no medicine in the house to treat them, so my wife went to Target because it was close by and had the supplies we needed. Before my wife left for the store, she seemed worried about the kids, so I asked her if she wanted me to go instead. She said she could do it, that there were only a few things that she needed to get, and would be back in half an hour.

Thirty minutes later, I got a phone call from my wife and she was hysterically crying, saying that the workers at Target were accusing her of using fake money. I could not believe it! My wife would never do such a thing and was so upset that she couldn't help our children feel better. Why would my wife pay with fake money when it comes to her kids? I trust my wife and I know that she is innocent of this crime.

### ***Testimony of Mrs. Fake***

My name is Mrs. Fake and I am 35 years old. I live in Bordentown, NJ with my loving husband, Mr. Fake, and we have three spectacular children: a set of two-year-old twins and a three-year-old. I used to work as a bank teller for 10 years at a bank in Bordentown, but recently lost my job, which left me feeling hopeless. A couple of weeks after I had my twins, I decided to go back to work because my family needed the money. One time, I was up all night with the twins and had to go to work early the next day. At work, I made a mistake by giving someone a little more money than they asked for because I was exhausted from not sleeping. I tried to work overtime to make up for it, but unfortunately, it happened again two months ago. I said I would do anything to keep my job because I loved it, but they were so cruel and fired me.

After I got let go, I started looking for a new job somewhere else in order to help

my family. I've been looking for a month now and have not been successful yet. I was relying on my family and friends for support since we were late on rent and short on money for groceries. My family was saving up every last bit of money to buy the essentials for us, so life has been a struggle lately.

On February 10, 2019, at 3:45 p.m. I needed to go to Target because two of my children were ill. They had the flu and I needed to get medicine for them. I drove for about 10 minutes to get to the closest Target and as soon as I went inside, I grabbed a basket and started looking for what I needed. When I was finished, I walked over to the cash register that didn't have any people waiting in line. First, the cashier scanned the tissues, then the cough drops, and finally the cold and flu medicine. He told me the total was \$49.99, so I looked in my purse to get the money. I didn't have any smaller bills with me, so I had to pay with a \$100 bill.

The cashier held the bill up in the air and had a worried look on his face. Five minutes went by and I was starting to get a little frustrated that it was taking him so long. Then, he took out a pen and I knew it was a counterfeit pen because I used to work at a bank and used them sometimes. After he used the pen, the cashier picked up the phone, dialed a number, and then a man appeared that looked like his boss. At that point, I was getting angry because they were taking so long and kept on whispering to each other. All I wanted to do was to get home to my sick children! I was asking questions and no one gave me a response, which made me even more mad.

All of a sudden, the cashier's boss turned to me and said that my money was fake and I was in awe. I am a good citizen, a caring mom and wife, and I would never do something like that. I would never use fake

money, especially when it is for my children, so I stormed out of the store. I worked at a bank and know counterfeit money when I see it and I am telling you that I am innocent!

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

The prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Mrs. Fake is guilty of committing the crime of forgery.

## **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Was something wrong with the counterfeit pens?
2. Did Cash Ear use the pen correctly?
3. Where did the money come from?
4. Why was Mrs. Fake so angry at the store?

## **CONCEPTS**

1. Forgery
2. Counterfeit
3. Burden of proof: beyond a reasonable doubt
4. Circumstantial vs. direct evidence
5. Accusation

## **LAW**

In New Jersey, using counterfeit money falls under the crime of forgery. A person found guilty of this offense is purposely trying to defraud someone with knowledge that it is forged. In this case, it can be tried as forgery in the third degree. As a result, it is punishable by up to 3-5 years in prison and/or a fine of at least \$500.

New Jersey Statutes Title 2C. The New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice 2C § 21-1 | FindLaw



# CASE OF THE CONCERNING CATASTROPHE: JASMINE DRIPPER V. MR. TOOTOO CONCERNED AND MRS. VERA CONCERNED

## SCHOOL

Joyce Kilmer  
Mahwah  
Grade 4  
Second Place

## TEACHER

Maureen Schaffner

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## STUDENTS

Ellie Archibald  
Daniel Isaac Archibald II  
Asher Bell  
Joseph Fogle  
Marisol Hwang  
Miru Kim

## FACTS

On March 13, Mr. Tootoo Concerned hired Jasmine Dripper to paint his garage as a surprise for his wife, Vera Concerned's, birthday, which was on April 14. He was going to take Vera out for shopping and lunch so that Vera would not see the painter working. On April 13, Jasmine arrived at Mr. Concerned's house at about 9:30 a.m., and by 10 a.m., she started painting.

Mr. Tootoo Concerned was a police officer who was training his German Shepherd, Dorky Corgi, to be a police dog. On April 13, Mr. Concerned arrived home at 8 a.m. after working the overnight shift at the police station. He was tired and fell asleep at about 9 a.m.

Mrs. Vera Concerned decided to walk their dog Dorky Corgi at 9:15 a.m. She arrived back at the house at about 10:15 a.m., just after Jasmine Dripper began painting. As Mrs. Concerned arrived at her house, she saw a hooded figure in a black hoodie painting her garage with spray paint. There had been several vandals in the neighborhood, who paint graffiti on people's garages and dress in black hoodies, so Mrs. Concerned was worried that the painter might be one. When Mrs. Concerned saw the painter, she yelled at her, "Hey you! Get away from there!"

Dorky Corgi heard the yelling and broke free from Mrs. Concerned's hold on the leash. He had been chasing another vandal during the night with Mr. Concerned and got confused. The painter had a fear of dogs and started running away from the dog. Mrs. Concerned yelled, "Halt!" and the dog immediately stopped and sat. Jasmine Dripper kept running and tripped over the paint cans she left lying on the driveway. She broke her dominant arm and cannot work until it heals.

Jasmine is suing Mr. and Mrs. Concerned for the medical fees and the money she lost when she could not work. She missed a lot of job appointments and lost \$11,512.

## ISSUE

Were Mr. and Mrs. Concerned negligent because they did not provide a safe place for Jasmine Dripper to do her job?

Are they liable for Jasmine Dripper's injury and her lost work?

## WITNESSES

### *For the Plaintiff*

Jasmine Dripper

Nose E. Nezy

### *For the Defense*

Tootoo Concerned

Vera Concerned

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### *Testimony of Jasmine Dripper*

My name is Jasmine Dripper. I am a rookie painter for the Perfect Painting Palace Company. Tootoo Concerned hired me on March 13 to paint their garage as a birthday surprise for his wife Vera Concerned. The house was at 22 Dangerous Drive.

On Friday, April 13, I arrived at 9:30 a.m. to Vera and Tootoo Concerned's house. It was my first month at Perfect Painting Palace, so I hadn't gotten my official uniform yet. When I arrived, I immediately started to take out my spray paint cans and all my other supplies. Time passed by so quickly and then it was 10 a.m. As soon as I got all of my stuff out, I started spraying some basic designs on the garage. I heard some loud yelling close to me. Then I saw a dog on a loose leash chasing me. I have a fear of dogs. As I was running away, I tripped on my white spray paint can and broke my arm. Within a blink, I was at the hospital.

I was not able to work for a while, so I missed my next 18 appointments. I lost about \$11,512, counting the medical fees, and I think that Vera Concerned and Tootoo Concerned should have to pay me back.

### ***Testimony of Nose E. Nezy***

My name is Nose E. Nezy and I have been a mail carrier in this neighborhood for seven years. I usually deliver mail to 22 Dangerous Drive. Lately there has been a lot of vandalism in the neighborhood. I've seen a lot of graffiti on garages.

The dog they call Dorky Corgi IS no dork. Last month I had a bad experience with Dorky Corgi. He chased me up the driveway and I almost tripped. He is not a good dog. He is mean. He only stops when he hears the word "halt" and it only works if his owners say it. At least that's what I think; it never works for me.

I would never go near that house unless I had to. Sometimes I even ask the other mail carriers to go to Mr. Concerned's house and do my job. They hate me for doing that. Well, that's all I have to say.

### ***Testimony of Tootoo Concerned***

My name is Tootoo Concerned. Vera Concerned and I are the owners of the house on 22 Dangerous Drive. I am a police officer and I am training our German Shepherd to be a police dog. I was surprising Vera by hiring a painter to paint the garage just before her birthday. I hired Jasmine Dripper on March 13, and she said she would paint the garage on April 13.

On April 12 I was working the overnight shift, chasing a vandal with Dorky Corgi and the officers. The next day I was going to take Vera out for shopping and breakfast at 9 a.m. to get her away from home so that the painter could work. I arrived home at

8 a.m. on April 13. I had a very exhausting night and I needed some rest, so I sat down for a few minutes and accidentally fell asleep in my chair just before I had a chance to ask Vera out.

Later I heard yelling and barking and woke with a start. Then I heard running right outside the window so I looked outside. Jasmine Dripper was on the ground and she looked like she was hurt. I raced outside to see what happened and Vera told me everything. I got in the car and drove Jasmine and Vera to the hospital to see how bad it was. Jasmine had a broken arm, but it was a clean break. The doctor said it would take six to eight weeks to heal.

### ***Testimony of Vera Concerned***

My name is Mrs. Vera Concerned. My birthday is April 14. Tootoo Concerned and I are the owners of house number 22 on Dangerous Drive.

On April 13, my husband had just gotten home at 8 a.m. from working the overnight shift at the police station and by the time 9 a.m. had rolled around, he had practically passed out on the couch. I thought that I'd do him a favor by walking the dog. I left the house at about 9:15 a.m.

I was coming back home about 10:05 a.m. when I saw a figure in a black hoodie at my garage door. I started freaking out. It was a natural reaction, and the painter probably should have been more prepared for it. I had started to run towards her when I saw her take out some spray paint and go to work. The curvy way she waved the paint around my garage looked so much like the graffiti I had seen on my neighbor's house that I almost passed out! There have been so many vandals and trespassers in the neighborhood all wearing black hoodies that I thought she was one. I had never in my life heard

of a painter in a black hoodie. All I could think about was the fact that my house was probably getting vandalized.

I wanted to try to handle the situation calmly, so as not to make it worse. I simply yelled out, “Hey you, get away from there!” The painter seemed so startled that she started to run away! That’s when I felt a strong tugging on the leash and looked down to see Dorky Corgi tugging as hard as he could on the leash, growling and baring his teeth! In a split second he had broken free from my leash and was bolting for the painter. I quickly yelled, “halt!” and he sat down right away.

The painter either didn’t notice the fact that my dog had stopped running or didn’t care because she kept running. The painter clearly did not plan on moving for a while or was just lazy, because I had noticed paint cans grouped together like a flock of birds all around her. She stepped on a paint can and practically did a flip and landed right on her arm with a sickening thud. I rode to the hospital with her and learned that she broke her arm.

## INSTRUCTIONS

The plaintiff must prove by a preponderance of evidence that Mr. and Mrs. Concerned were negligent. The plaintiff alleges that they did not provide a safe place for her to work and that caused her to break her arm and be unable to work.

## SUB-ISSUES

1. Were Mr. and Mrs. Concerned negligent by having a dangerous dog?
2. Should Mr. Concerned have told Mrs. Concerned about the painter coming?
3. Was Jasmine Dripper negligent by leaving her paint cans everywhere so she could not walk away from her work without tripping?

4. Was Jasmine Dripper negligent because she was wearing a black hoodie with no company name on it?

## CONCEPTS

1. Negligence
2. Contributory negligence
3. Damages
4. Causation

## LAW

1. Negligence is the failure to care about others the way an ordinary person would probably do in similar circumstances.
2. Contributory negligence is that one person was mostly negligent, but the other person was also partially negligent.
3. Negligence is broken up into four elements.
  - Element #1 Duty of care - The duty of care is someone’s duty or job to care for people in the way an ordinary person would.
  - Element #2 Breach of duty - The breach of duty is when you breach or “break” your duty.
  - Element #3 Causation - Causation is showing that the breach of duty caused the injuries.
  - Element #4 Damages - The damages are the price the defendant pays to make up for the money the plaintiff lost.



# THE CASE OF THE MISSING DOG PORTRAIT: ROBERT KEELING V. STEVE STILL

## SCHOOL

Stillwater Township School District  
Stillwater  
Grade 4  
Honorable Mention

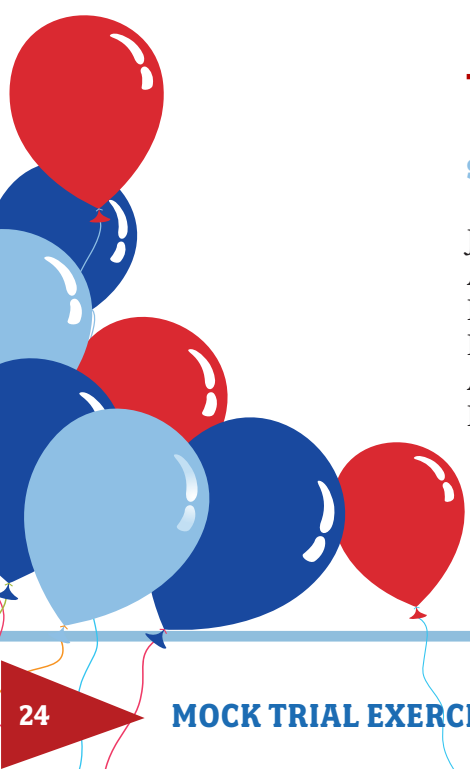
## TEACHER

Cali Roberts

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## STUDENTS

Julia Dutzi  
Abighaile Looney  
Peyton Molinet  
Libby Prtorich  
Alexander Seryapov  
Danielle Smolinski



## FACTS

An original watercolor dog portrait went missing from Robert Keeling's art studio on April 29, 2023 at approximately 7 p.m. On that same day, Steve Still showed up, unannounced, at Robert's art studio. He was there to surprise Robert with a visit. The men had met two years ago at an art competition in Los Angeles, CA. They had a lot in common and agreed to meet up again in the future.

During the visit, Robert gave Steve a tour of his art studio, showing him the paintings that he was working on and getting ready to sell in an upcoming art show. Robert is a huge dog lover and his five dogs followed them around the studio, knocking over canvases and paints. Trying their best to ignore the dogs, Steve and Robert discussed their current projects. Steve mentioned that he was struggling to make money selling his paintings and wasn't sure what to do. He was worried about his future as an artist.

The day went by so quickly and Robert realized that it was time for dinner. He and Steve said their good-byes and promised to keep in touch. Steve drove away in his car and Robert went to pick up dinner.

When Robert returned to his art studio, he noticed that one of his most famous art pieces was missing, his watercolor dog portrait. The painting is worth approximately \$5,000 and Robert had already found a buyer for it. Robert suspects that Steve stole the painting because he needed money.

## ISSUE

A watercolor dog portrait went missing from Robert Keeling's art studio.

## WITNESSES

### *For the Prosecution*

Bob Hill  
Christina Bell

### *For the Defense*

Steve Still  
Emma L. Robbie

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### *Testimony of Bob Hill*

My name is Bob Hill and I rent the studio next to Robert Keeling's. Robert and his wife are wonderful landlords and it is a nice, quiet place to work on my art as long as Robert's dogs are kept in the house. On April 29, 2023, I was at the studio all day and into the night. Early in the day, I saw a red car pull up outside of the studio. One man got out of the car and visited with Robert most of the day. Around dinnertime, the visitor left in his car and Robert did the same.

Robert was gone for a few minutes and I saw the visitor's red car pull up to the studio for a second time. The man got out of his car carrying a backpack and dog treats. He went into the backyard. At first I thought it was Robert's dog-sitter. It was dark outside, but I'm sure that it was the same man that visited Robert that day, Steve Still. Steve went into the backyard. Through the glass window, I saw him walk into the art studio and stare at one of the paintings. I thought it was strange that Robert wasn't there, but Robert is very trusting and allows his close friends and family to visit the art studio when he can't be there. After a few minutes, Steve came out of the studio with something poking out of his backpack. He went to his car and drove away.

### ***Testimony of Christina Bell***

My name is Christina Bell and I am Robert Keeling's wife. On April 29, 2023, Robert had a surprise visitor to his art studio. Robert texted me and told me that it was Steve Still, the man that he had met at the art competition in Los Angeles, CA. I was busy most of the day and forgot to make dinner, so I told Robert to pick up a takeout order from Mengo's Pizza. After a long day, Robert didn't feel like making the 30-minute drive, but we both were very hungry for that special pizza.

While Robert went to pick up the food, I was relaxing on the back porch watching the sunset. After the sun went down, I saw someone run out of the art studio with something poking out of a backpack. I think it was Steve Still, the same man that was visiting during the day. It was the same red car pulling away.

### ***Testimony of Steve Still***

My name is Steve Still and I am a friend of Robert Keeling. Two years ago, we met at an art competition in Los Angeles, CA. When we met, Robert said that I had an open invitation to visit his studio whenever I was in town. I decided to surprise Robert with a visit on April 29, 2023. Robert took me on a tour of his studio and I saw many beautiful paintings. I especially liked the detail in his dog watercolor portrait. I had a great time, but was very annoyed with Robert's unruly dogs. I didn't want to be rude, so I didn't say anything. However, as we were walking around the studio, his dogs were constantly jumping on me and knocking things over. We couldn't even have a nice conversation without interruption. Robert needs to control his dogs or they will destroy his nice studio.

I have gone through some hard times recently and I am low on money. No matter what, I would never commit theft.

After I left Robert's studio, I went out to dinner with my close friend, Emma L. Robbie. We went to my favorite place, Jimmy's Hot Dogs. After dinner, I realized that I left my phone at Robert's studio. I returned to look for it, but it wasn't there. I noticed that the painting I adored was missing! I saw one of Robert's dogs with, what looked to be, a piece of canvas in its mouth. The next thing I knew, I was being accused of stealing the painting!

### ***Testimony of Emma L. Robbie***

My name is Emma L. Robbie. I have lived in the same neighborhood as Robert for several years. It is such a small world that Robert met my good friend, Steve, at the art competition in Los Angeles. Steve and I became friends in art school and I've known him for years and he would never steal anything. The truth is, Robert lets his dogs run rampant around his art studio and they are always ruining things. Everyone in town knows that Robert's dogs are out of control.

During the time the painting went missing, Steve and I were having dinner together at Jimmy's Hot Dogs. Those hot dogs are the best and Steve's favorite food. After dinner, Steve hurried back to Robert's studio because he needed to find his phone.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

The prosecution must prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Steve Still stole Robert Keeling's famous watercolor dog portrait worth \$5,000.

## **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Robert lets his five dogs roam around the art studio and outside of the art studio all the time.
2. Time of day.

## **CONCEPTS**

1. Circumstantial evidence vs. direct proof.
2. Credibility of witnesses.

## **LAW**

2C:20-3. Theft by unlawful taking or disposition

a. Movable property. A person is guilty of theft if he unlawfully takes, or exercises unlawful control over, movable property of another with purpose to deprive him thereof.

Source: <https://www.njcourts.gov/sites/default/files/charges/theft003.pdf>



# STATE V. FRANKLIN CAROL

## SCHOOL

Hurffville Elementary  
Sewell  
Grade 5  
First Place

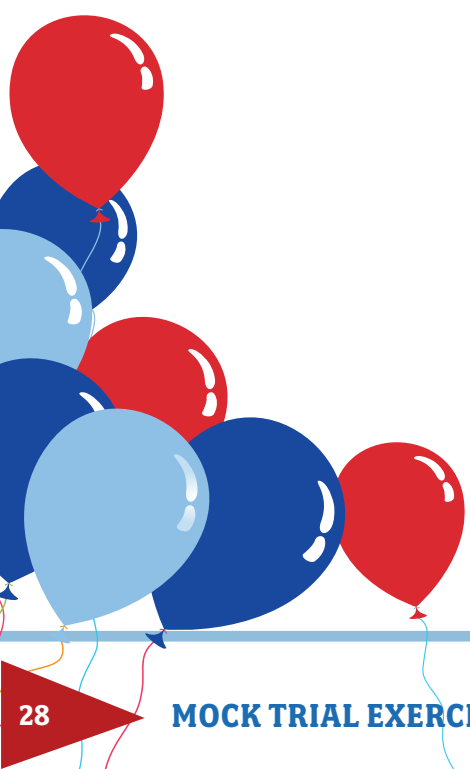
## TEACHER

Therese Colligan

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## STUDENTS

Laila Curran  
Leo DelGiorno  
Connor Foody  
Andersen Heller  
Maryam Kashlan  
Lucas Kyvernitis  
Reid McCarron  
Victoria McKnight  
Elijah Miller  
Braden Wiley



## FACTS

On Thursday, October 12, 2023, the DelGiorno State College star wide receiver, Dayton Keene, made the game winning touchdown. The team had just gained a significant win over their rivals, Hurffville State College, and had eliminated them from the playoffs. That same night, college maintenance called their usual plumber by the name of Franklin Carol because of a clog in the football team's locker room sinks. He also was known to be an enthusiastic fan of Hurffville State College because he was a student there. Players reported he seemed a bit more withdrawn than usual that night.

At approximately 9 p.m., the janitor, Janet Orr, was cleaning the showers in the boys' locker room shower area. Around the same time, Mr. Carol was on the other side of the locker room unclogging the sinks by the players' stalls. Ms. Orr reported that she noticed Mr. Carol was working on something around the corner and saw him leave at approximately 10 p.m. Mr. Carol reported leaving immediately after fixing the sink drains and packing up his bags and equipment. Ms. Orr left after she finished cleaning the locker room and locked the door behind her. About 15 minutes later, a security camera spotted a murky figure entering the locker room.

Also, around that time, a student, Randolph Barret, woke up in his nearby dorm room to use the bathroom and get a snack. Through his window, a light caught his eye, and he noticed a man carrying a bag of some sort and what appeared to be three cans; however, it was a very rainy, foggy evening. Mr. Barret was suspicious when the man kept looking over his shoulder.

The next day players arrived in the locker room for practice to find profanity spray-painted on 11 starting players' helmets and

that the mural of the team mascot near the stalls was completely defaced. The team's star wide receiver's entire locker stall was ransacked and damaged as well.

The police were called in to investigate and found a flashlight, a common tool of a plumber. Police questioned Franklin and arrested him later that day and charged him with criminal mischief, vandalism, and destruction of property. The total damage is \$8,925. He faces possible jail time of 3 to 5 years and a fine of \$15,000.

## ISSUE

Is Franklin Carol guilty of the charges of criminal mischief/vandalism and destruction of property?

## WITNESSES

### *For the Prosecution*

Dayton Keene  
Randolph Barret

### *For the Defense*

Janet Orr  
Franklin Carol

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### *Testimony of Dayton Keene*

On Friday morning, October 13, I walked into my team's locker room to see graffiti spray-painted on our mascot mural and helmets, mirrors broken, and lockers damaged. My stall was destroyed, and my equipment was tossed all around on the floor. When I saw this, I just couldn't believe it, and for a few minutes I was in shock. Franklin, the plumber, was distracted the night before when he was fixing our sinks. This is odd because I would occasionally hang back and talk with Franklin; we would have some nice chats sometimes even though he still said he isn't a fan of our school. He boasted to always be true to the

college he went to, Hurffville State College. I did not realize he cared enough to do something like this.

### ***Testimony of Randolph Barret***

I woke up to go to the bathroom late at night. I don't exactly remember the time, but I think it was around 10:30 p.m. or so and raining hard. As I walked towards the bathroom, a light caught my eye, so I glanced out the window and saw a man hurrying towards the locker room holding something that looked like cans. He also carried a bag of some kind with him and appeared to wear dark clothing. This didn't strike me as unusual because, being close friends with some players on the team, I knew that because the drains clogged in the sinks, things often needed to be fixed. That plumber was always in the locker room. However, thinking back, the guy did seem suspicious when he kept looking over his shoulder.

### ***Testimony of Janet Orr***

I am the janitor of DelGiorno State College. I was called in by Adean O'College, the dean of DelGiorno State College, to clean the boys' locker room for the night. After the big win against Hurffville State College, Franklin, the plumber they call all the time, was unclogging the sinks in the boys' locker room. I was busy mopping the shower area. As I was working, I glanced at Franklin; it seemed like he was working hard. Once finished, he left through the door with all his supplies. I finished cleaning up, turned out the lights, walked out and locked the door. There is only one door in and out of the locker room. Franklin and I have been friends for a long time. I just know he would not do something like this.

### ***Testimony of Franklin Carol***

I am Franklin Carol, one of the plumbers hired often whenever there is a problem with the drains and sinks at DelGiorno State College. I have been working for DelGiorno State College for years and was even given keys to the locker room since I am there so often. That night I was called in by the dean of DelGiorno State College to unclog the sink drains again, and as soon as I finished, I packed up my tools, waved goodbye to Janet, and went straight home after a long day with a pounding headache.

Yes, while I am a fan of Hurffville State College, I would not do something like this to the DelGiorno State College. I have talked to the players, and they have treated me like family here at DelGiorno State College. I would never do something this low to DelGiorno State, they are practically family to me. I am innocent.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

The prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Franklin Carol committed the crime and is guilty of criminal mischief/vandalism and destruction of property.

### **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Did the police find any footprints?
2. Does Franklin Carol have a criminal record?
3. Did the janitor fully lock the locker room doors?
4. Did the sinks work after Franklin Carol did his job?

### **CONCEPTS**

1. Eyewitness: A person who has seen an event and can testify in court.
2. Credibility of witnesses: Is the witness telling the truth?
3. Malicious destruction of property: A

person intentionally destroys, defaces, or injures personal or their real property.

#### 4. Vandalism/criminal mischief.

### LAW

The crime of vandalism is known as “criminal mischief” in New Jersey and, depending on the property damaged or its value, could be punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a \$15,000 fine.

Vandalism is generally considered the deliberate destruction or damage of another’s property. In New Jersey, vandalism is labeled “criminal mischief.” Criminal mischief takes on several forms. Under N.J.S.A. 2C:17-3, a person can be convicted of criminal mischief if they:

(1) Purposely, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently damaged someone else’s property by using fire, explosives, or other dangerous means.

(2) Purposely, knowingly, or recklessly tampered with someone else’s property that endangered that property owner and/or his property. This includes a tenant damaging or destroying a rental in retaliation for a landlord starting an eviction process against them.

The law sets out the following thresholds for damages and the specific acts under each charge. Also, those convicted of property damage will be held responsible for all expenses related to the restoration of the property.

Vandalism will be considered a disorderly person’s offense:

- If the damage caused is valued at less than \$500. The fine for this offense is set at a minimum of \$100.
- For a petty disorderly offense, the maximum fine is \$500, while for a

standard disorderly offense, the fine cannot exceed \$1,000.

- A disorderly person’s offense can carry jail time of up to 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks).

Vandalism will be considered a fourth-degree crime:

- If the damage is valued between \$500 and \$2,000.
- If vandalism involves digging up or tampering with gas lines, cable lines, or telecommunication lines, regardless of the damage’s value.
- If vandalism involves tampering with any airport, landing strip, or other aviation facility.
- If convicted, a person can face up to 18 months (about 1 and a half years) in jail. The fine is set at a minimum of \$200, and a maximum of \$10,000.

Vandalism will be considered a third-degree crime:

- If the damage caused is valued at more than \$2,000.
- If vandalism was done to a cemetery, grave site, mausoleum, or research property at a research facility, regardless of what the value of the damage was.
- If the vandalism causes an interruption or impairment of public transportation or utilities, regardless of what the value of the damage was.
- If interference or tampering with an aviation facility causes injury or damage to property.
- The fine is set at a minimum of \$500 and maximum of \$15,000. One can also face 3-5 years imprisonment.



# THE CASE OF THE STOLEN MELODY: JAMES TOWN V. CHICK N. NUGS

## SCHOOL

Stillwater Township School District  
Stillwater  
Grade 5  
Second Place

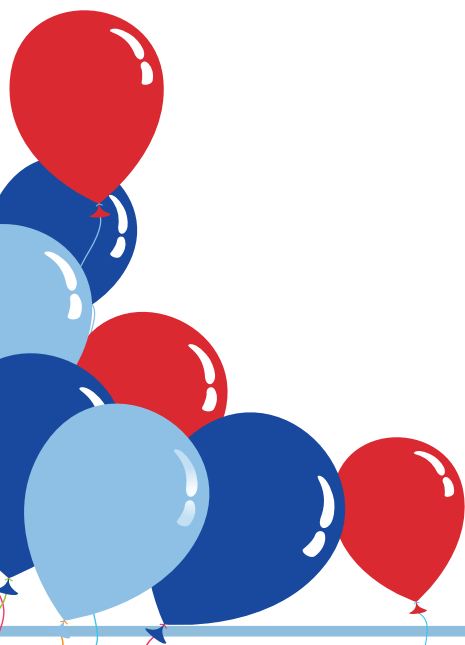
## TEACHER

Cali Roberts

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## STUDENTS

Anthony Alcaro  
Allison Carman  
Ella Franek  
Emma Galante  
Eli Inglima  
Reese Molinet  
Kaylee Moss  
Mackenzie Reed



## FACTS

In April 2020, James Town, a well-known pop music artist, released a new song called “The Magic Flute.” Critics considered the song a huge hit and it stayed at the top of the charts for several months. In August of 2020, the pop music star, Chick N. Nugs, released a song called “Figaro in Love.” Ms. Nugs’ song became extremely popular and she made millions.

James Town and his team noticed that the melody in Ms. Nugs’ song, “Figaro in Love,” sounded very similar to the melody in his song, “The Magic Flute.” On January 27, 2021, James Town posted on several social media outlets claiming that Chick N. Nugs plagiarized his hit song, “The Magic Flute.” He accused Chick N. Nugs of copying the melody. The post read: “Nugs took my song, ‘The Magic Flute,’ and I have proof. I should be getting paid from all of the profits she is making off of her song, ‘Figaro in Love!’ It’s my work!”

After the social media post, James Town’s fans were very angry with Chick N. Nugs and continued to post on social media that she is a fraud. The fans of Chick N. Nugs took to social media, as well, sharing that they were shocked and could not believe she would do such a thing.

James Town’s career has plummeted because he has not been able to release any new songs. James Town wants Ms. Nugs to pay him a percentage of the earnings from her song, “Figaro in Love,” since he believes she plagiarized the melody and violated copyright law.

## ISSUE

Did Chick N. Nugs violate copyright law and plagiarize the melody of James Town’s song? Is she liable to pay money damages to James Town?

## WITNESSES

### ***For the Plaintiff***

Timmy Bimmy

Mia Ray

### ***For the Defense***

Pepper Roni

Chick N. Nugs

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### ***Testimony of Timmy Bimmy***

My name is Timmy Bimmy and I am James Town’s recording studio manager. James and I have been working together for five years. We both work hard to make beautiful music for our fans to enjoy and the past five years have been very successful.

James called me when he heard Chick’s song, “Figaro in Love.” He said that it sounded too similar to his top hit, “The Magic Flute.” I did what any good music producer would do, I listened to the two different songs very carefully and analyzed each. I agreed that they sounded very similar. To be sure that I was right, I used an artificial intelligence (AI) song compare application to note the similarities or differences between the musical elements of “The Magic Flute” and “Figaro in Love.” Well, I was right! The application reported that the melodies in both songs are the same. I have nothing against Chick, but it is clear that she plagiarized “The Magic Flute” and owes James a portion of the profits that the song earned.

### ***Testimony of Mia Ray***

My name is Mia Ray and I am a professional pianist. James Town and I have been friends since college where we both studied music. James knew that I had become a pianist and had a particular strength in writing melodies. We had not spoken for a few years, but James reached out

to me on Facebook and asked me to write the melody and play the piano for his song, “The Magic Flute.” “The Magic Flute” was such a huge success and we decided to continue working together as a team.

I would recognize my melodies anywhere! The first time I heard “Figaro in Love” by Chick N. Nugs, I knew it was my melody. I didn’t say anything right away because I have no problems with Chick. We have gotten to know each other through the music business and have always gotten along. However, I cannot ignore this any longer. I know that Chick stole our melody and she can’t get away with it!

### ***Testimony of Pepper Roni***

My name is Pepper Roni and I have been Chick’s music producer for the past four years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to stay together at Chick’s house. I even brought my children. One day, Chick came to me and said that she heard my children humming a tune and felt so inspired. She thought it was the beginning of a huge hit and she was right! Obviously, we had no idea that the tune they were humming sounded like James Town’s song. “Figaro in Love” is our original song.

James is just jealous of our success and needs money. Also, the application that Mr. Bimmy used to compare the songs is well-known to be faulty and unreliable. After all, it is just a free application. I only used it once and compared two completely different songs, a rap song and a classical song, and it actually said they sounded alike. Well, we all know that can’t be true.

### ***Testimony of Chick N. Nugs***

My name is Chick N. Nugs and “Figaro in Love” is 100% original. I would never stoop so low as to steal a melody from someone else’s song. If I wanted to use James’ melody, I would have asked him. Pepper and I wrote

that song during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. We were so afraid that we would not be able to continue making music during the lockdown that we decided that Pepper and her children would move into my house. As the days went by, I became inspired by Pepper’s kids. They have real musical talent, just like their mom. They were always humming this beautiful tune.

“Figaro in Love” is a completely original song. Now I’m losing fans and money because of James Town’s social media post. People actually believe his lies and it’s causing a problem for me. Also, I’m not that great with technology and I do not know much about any of those song compare applications. I do keep hearing that AI is wonderful. I’ve been in the music business for a while and I know James Town’s music career isn’t going well. You know critics say James Town’s song, “The Magic Flute,” is a one-hit wonder. I believe that he is jealous and trying to make some quick money by accusing me of violating copyright laws.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

The plaintiff must prove, by a preponderance of evidence, that there was a violation of copyright laws.

## **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Chick N. Nugs is losing fans, social media followers, and money since James Town has accused her of violating copyright.
2. Are the witnesses credible?
3. Is the AI application used for song comparison reliable?

## **CONCEPTS**

1. The plaintiff has the burden of proof. The plaintiff must prove, more likely than not, each element of his claim.
2. Credibility of witnesses

## LAW

Copyright laws protect the original work of musicians, artists, etc. “Material that was copyrighted on or after January 1, 1978, is protected from the date of its creation until 70 years after the creator’s death.”

“Plagiarism is the act of taking a person’s original work and presenting it as if it was one’s own. Plagiarism is not illegal in the United States in most situations. Instead it is considered a violation of honor or ethics codes and can result in disciplinary action from a person’s school or workplace. However, plagiarism can warrant legal action if it infringes upon the original author’s copyright, patent, or trademark. Plagiarism can also result in a lawsuit if it breaches a contract with terms that only original work is acceptable.”

Sources: <https://www.richardnovaklaw.com>, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/plagiarism#:~:text=Plagiarism%20is%20not%20illegal%20in,a%20person%27s%20school%20or%20workplace>



# THE CASE OF THE MAIMED HIKER: STEVENS V. GRAND CANYON ADVENTURES

## SCHOOL

Birches Elementary  
Turnersville  
Grade 5  
Honorable Mention

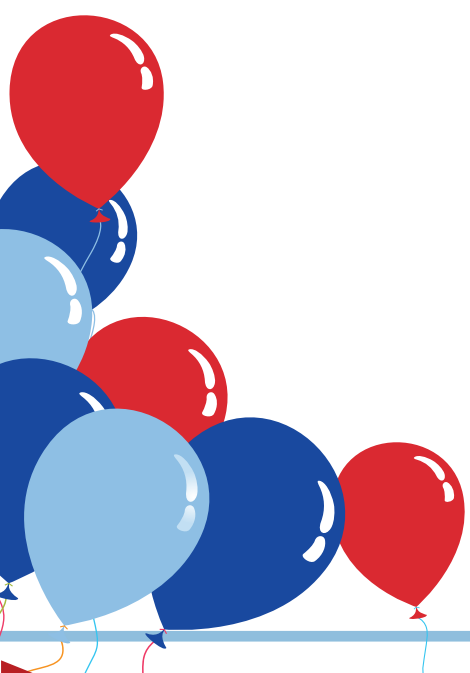
## TEACHER

Arlene Gerber

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## STUDENTS

Gavin Bartelt  
Katya Hryb  
Zara Keenan  
Isabel Lanting  
Kellan McCurdy  
Mason Monaco  
Christopher Pentz  
Emily Schimdt  
Peyton Stewart  
Jace White



## FACTS

It was a bright, sunny day on July 18, 2021, at Grand Canyon Adventures hiking spot and tourist destination, located on the border of western New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. When the tour bus arrived, a group of hikers, including Lily Stevens and her friends streamed out. First, they went to the main lobby of Grand Canyon Adventures and purchased their tickets. The ticket manager told everyone to read the back of the ticket, which stated that the company was not responsible for any injuries sustained on the property. But Lily didn't bother to read the ticket.

Then they met with the hiking instructor, Kate Owens. As Kate was giving directions, she realized that Lily seemed to be paying more attention to her phone than the directions. After explaining the safety rules, Kate told everyone to turn off their cellphones, leave them at the lodge, and grab a map from the table next to her. She also recommended that the visitors not take pictures because it could startle wildlife and ruin the natural experience. Lily was still not paying attention and texting. Then Lily's friend tapped her on the shoulder and said, "Lily, let's go."

The tourists all walked out of the lobby and took different paths to hike. The green path was for beginners, the yellow path was intermediate, and the red path was the most difficult path. Lily took the yellow path with her two friends. While Lily was hiking, she ran out of film and needed to reload her camera. When she finished loading the film, she looked up and noticed that her friends weren't there anymore. She continued to follow the yellow arrows, but some of the arrows were missing. When Lily came to a fork in the trail, without realizing it, she went on the red trail, the hardest trail.

Suddenly, a mountain lion came out of the forest. Lily panicked. She screamed and tried to run away. The mountain lion attacked Lily.

About two hours later, Lily limped into the lobby with the help of hiker Ryan Richman, who rescued her on the trail. As she was limping, Lily had what looked like claw marks and bites on her face, torso, arms, and worst of all, her legs. Kate Owens saw her and called 911. An ambulance arrived quickly and took Lily to the local hospital.

Kate also reported the incident to Grand Canyon Adventures' owner, Jacob Whitewater. Jacob was shocked to hear what had happened. Mountain lions were never seen in New Jersey. In addition, his staff were trained to maintain the trails so that their customers had a great experience. Safety was his top priority.

One month after the incident, Lily's doctor, Henry Louis, told her that because of her injuries, she would never be able to run track competitively again. Lily was furious and exclaimed that she had received a four-year track scholarship and couldn't afford to pay for college on her own. She decided to sue Grand Canyon Adventures.

## ISSUE

Was Grand Canyon Adventures negligent and therefore responsible for Lily's injuries?

## WITNESSES

### *For the Plaintiff*

Lily Stevens

Dr. Henry Louis

### *For the Defendant*

Jacob Whitewater

Kate Owens

## **WITNESS STATEMENTS**

### ***Testimony of Lily Stevens***

My name is Lily Stevens. I went to Grand Canyon Adventures on July 18, 2021, to celebrate my 18th birthday with my two friends, Heather Miller and Dylan Jacobs. When we got into the lobby we sat down. My mom texted me an important message, at around 12:35, that read: “When will you get home?” So, I had to answer it right away. Then my friends tapped me on the shoulder and told me the instructions were over and it was time to go hike.

There were several paths to go on. They were easy/green, medium/yellow and hard/red paths. There were arrows so we would know where to go. We started hiking on the yellow trail. I brought my camera and stopped to change the film along the way. When I was done, I turned to find that my friends were gone. The yellow arrow signs on the path were missing and, without realizing, I went on the red path and got lost. After a while, I calmed down because it was still light out. I was fine and had a feeling I would get back soon, but I guess I was wrong.

Only a few minutes later I heard a low grumble, then a squirrel ran along with bunnies, foxes, and lizards. I started to get worried about what or who had startled them. The next thing I knew a huge shadow emerged out of the bushes. I started to scream as a mountain lion attacked me. Thankfully, a hiker heard me scream. He pulled me away from the mountain lion and while he was dragging me to the lodge, I was clinging to life. The last thing I remembered before losing consciousness was a loud ambulance siren.

When I regained consciousness, I was in a hospital. After a little while, I finally got the confidence to look at my legs. When I did, I couldn't even scream, I was so shocked.

There were so many stitches in my legs! I couldn't sit up for long because my head was hurting so badly.

About a month later, I went back to my doctor, Henry Louis. What he told me made me furious! In his exact words, he said, “You can NEVER, run competitively again, or you will damage your legs even more.” I was even more upset when I realized that I couldn't go to college without the four-year scholarship I earned for my running skills in track. Not just that, but I really enjoy running and now I can't do it at all.

### ***Testimony of Dr. Henry Louis***

My name is Henry Louis. I am 45 years old. I have been a doctor at Birchwood Hospital for 13 years. I got my M.D. at Harvard Medical School. I'm the best doctor in my department. When Lily Stevens entered the emergency room at 5:37 in the evening on July 18, 2021, I was horrified by what I saw. She had many deep wounds on her arms and legs that were bleeding profusely. I was worried that she had lost a tremendous amount of blood due to the slashes and clawing. I aided her by stitching her wounds. I put in about 37 stitches. Then I sent her to get an MRI.

After I saw the results, they showed that she would not make a full recovery because the attack was so severe. The mountain lion clawed and bit her left leg, which punctured her leg and clawed her right arm muscles, which led to Cat Scratch Disease. CSD is a bacterial infection spread by cats. The disease spreads when an infected cat licks a person's open wound, bites or scratches a person hard enough to break the surface of the skin.

CSD mildly affected Lily's brain. She experienced severe headaches for four months. She also needed physical therapy for three and one half months to regain use of her left leg and right arm. She started using

a wheelchair, then crutches and a walker. More importantly, one month later, I called her back for a follow-up visit. At that time, I told her she would not be able to continue running competitively again. I also told her that she would have some serious scarring on her arm and leg. She was devastated.

### ***Testimony of Jacob Whitewater***

My name is Jacob Whitewater. I am the owner of Grand Canyon Adventures hiking spot and tourist destination. I have been the owner of this business for 25 years. I am an expert survivalist and I have authored many books on surviving in the wild. I own the park, which has about 85 acres. There are thousands of green, lush trees, and there are rocky and grassy hills. There are also waterfalls and caverns for our hikers to explore. There are three paths for our tourists and hikers to take. Green: the easiest path that has large pathways and is not steep. Yellow: the medium path that has lakes, tall trees, and steep hills. Red: the hardest path that has waterfalls, caves, bridges, and very steep hills. To access the red path, you need to have great hiking experience and to have hiked across the green path and yellow path. Although our paths are steep and have cliffs, there are safety fences surrounding the perimeter to make sure no animals are on the paths and to keep our hikers safe.

There have been no incidents at this business up until July 18, 2021, when a girl named Lily Stevens got attacked by a mountain lion. On the day she got ambushed, I got a report from my main instructor, Kate Owens. She said that the girl, Lily, wandered off the path and got clawed by a mountain lion. I do not understand how this could have happened, because our instructors and park rangers check the trails, fences and signs every five days to ensure safety. Another thing I should mention is

that there have not been any mountain lion sightings in New Jersey. There have been a few sightings in Pennsylvania and other states.

I feel great sympathy for the matter of the young woman getting attacked, but I do not believe that it is our responsibility. When you purchase a ticket from our ticket manager, the bottom of it clearly states that we are not liable for any injuries. Our clients can also see this statement on our website, where the terms of service also state that we are not responsible. I also have a copy of the ticket Lily purchased.

### ***Testimony of Kate Owens***

My name is Kate Owens, I am 31 years old, and I am employed at Grand Canyon Adventures. I have worked there for 10 years. On July 18, 2021, at about 12:35 p.m. I saw Lily Stevens arrive from the Grand Canyon Adventures bus. She and her friends walked into the lobby and bought tickets. I heard the ticket manager say, "Read the ticket carefully and no refunds!" Lily did not. I saw her grab the ticket and shove it in her pocket. I started explaining the rules and directions. About three minutes later, I noticed that Lily seemed to be paying more attention to her phone than to the directions. She needed to listen so that she could have a safe and happy hiking experience, which is what we always want for our customers. Throughout the whole time I was explaining the directions, Lily was on her phone.

When I was done, I told everyone to put their phones in a locker and grab a map. When I said this, she did nothing. Then her friends tapped her on the shoulder and said, "Come on, Lily, let's go." That was the last I saw of her until about three hours later when I came back from my break. I saw her with a man who was guiding her back to the lodge from the top of the red path. She was

limping and had what looked like claw marks and bites on her torso, arms, and her legs. It looked like she was saying something, but I could not exactly tell what she was saying because of our distance. As soon as I saw this, I called an ambulance. I saw the ambulance arrive and, the next thing I knew, Lily was taken away. Then I reported the incident to my boss, Jacob Whitewater.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

The plaintiff must set out such a convincing case against the defendant that the jury believes by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant was negligent.

## **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Does the language on the ticket and on the defendant's website constitute a valid waiver of liability for the defendant?
2. Are property owners responsible for the actions of wild animals?
3. Was the plaintiff negligent and did her actions or lack of action contribute to her injuries?

## **CONCEPTS**


1. Credibility of witnesses
2. Burden of proof: by a preponderance of the evidence

## **LAW**

Negligence and Ordinary Care: Negligence may be defined as failure to exercise, in the given circumstances, that degree of care for the safety of others, which a person of ordinary prudence would exercise under similar circumstances. It may be the doing of an act, which the ordinary prudent person would not have done, or the failure to do that which the ordinary prudent person would have done, under the circumstances then existing.

NJSA 2A:15-5.1. Comparative Negligence: In order to obtain a recovery, an injured plaintiff must be found no more than 50% at fault for causing their injuries.

New Jersey Landowner Liability Act: An owner of a premises, whether maintained in a natural state or not, has no duty to keep the property safe for those who use it for recreational purposes or to warn those who use it of potential danger, unless the landowner charges a fee for its use and should have been able to reasonably foresee a dangerous situation or created a dangerous situation.



# A BITE OF FORBIDDEN FRUIT, APPLE PAY AND ROTTEN BETRAYAL: THE CASE OF LACY SMITH V. NICK ROBIN

## SCHOOL

Ramapo Ridge Middle  
Mahwah  
Grade 6  
First Place

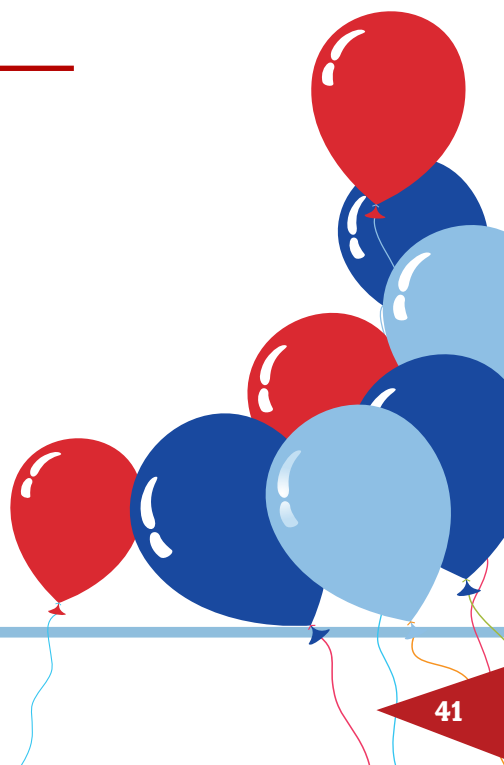
## TEACHER

Kelly DeBello

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## STUDENTS

Kayla Bongiorni  
Mason Burrano  
David Hauck  
Yushin Kim  
Jake Silberfarb  
Stephanie Wang



## FACTS

On November 1, 2020, Lacy Smith, a supermodel, became extremely sick with multiple symptoms of COVID-19. She was scared for her health and sent her boyfriend, Nick Robin, to retrieve an at-home COVID-19 test to determine her condition. Lacy Smith texted Nick her Apple Pay info to pay for the test. When Nick Robin tried to use Lacy's Apple Pay to pay for the test, he was asked to put in her Apple Pay password. He texted her asking for it. Lacy told him. However, Lacy made him promise he would delete the text so he could not use it again. A month later, Lacy and Nick started to get into many squabbles.

They broke up a few months into their relationship on December 2, 2020. A year later, on December 31, 2021, Lacy Smith suddenly noticed that she had a major charge on her Apple Pay bill for \$8,000 from Channel. The bill showed that the purchase was made on December 18. She claims Nick, the only one who was given the Apple Pay information and password, bought the expensive item without Lacy's consent. Lacy is suing Nick Robin for fraudulent misrepresentation.

## ISSUE

Did Nick Robin use Lacy Smith's Apple Pay account without her consent?

## WITNESSES

### *For the Plaintiff*

Chloe Smith  
Anita Bet Erjob

### *For the Defense*

John Johnson  
Corr N. Flake

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### *Testimony of Chloe Smith*

My name is Chloe Smith. I am the sister of Lacy Smith. On the evening of December 18, 2021, I was in the study when Lacy walked in, clearly distressed. She told me that her Apple Pay had been used to buy some Channel items that she did not purchase. Later, our housekeeper came in and heard us talking. She immediately told us that she believed Nick Robin had used her Apple Pay, without her consent.

Nick always mistreated Lacy during the time they dated. He would yell at her and call her terrible names. Lacy had also found evidence of him cheating, disregarding me, and telling me to buzz off, often using foul language. He would also say things to Lacy that would put me in a bad position. He told her she shouldn't be hanging out with me or letting me live with her because I wasn't as rich and didn't have a high-paying job like hers. I also confronted him about the cheating but he said that the girl was his cousin; this was untrue because I had seen pictures of them kissing.

### *Testimony of Anita Bet Erjob*

I am Anita Bet Erjob, the housekeeper for Nick Robin. All 10 years I have worked for his family, he has borrowed things from his parents and never paid them back. Also, he is sneaky and tries to get me to give him money. On December 18, 2021, the day of the charge, Nick seemed to be acting very weird and nervous. That day, in the dining room, I passed by Nick and he had left his phone open and was looking at photos from a couple of months ago. I know because I saw some of him and Lacy from a nearby party. And I know that Nick needs money, judging by my small tips.

Nick recently got a new girlfriend, Bea Beter, whom he was always trying to impress. He was constantly sending me to get him

things like his water and phone when she came over. After piecing together the details, I believe he made the charge at Channel as a gift for her because he is very lonely when she is not around. From my observations over the past few years, I can tell you that he is untrustworthy in general.

### ***Testimony of Jimmy John Johnson III***

I am Jimmy John Johnson III. I am a pharmaceutical worker. I have had this job for about seven months now. Nothing like this has ever happened before. I saw Nick at 3:20 p.m. on November 1, 2020. He came up to me at the cash register. He seemed like a nice young man. He asked me for a COVID test. He told me it was for his girlfriend, and he wanted to pay with Apple Pay. It looked like he didn't have one himself, because he was having some trouble.

I asked him if he would be able to provide the payment. He began texting with his girlfriend when I asked him for the money. She gave him what I think was Apple Pay login information, and then she texted him to delete it. He was very nice to her at first because he was saying stuff like, "Honey, can you give me your Apple Pay?" She replied by saying, "Are you dumb? This is the second time you forgot it!" After he paid for it, he deleted it. I saw him do it before he walked out. He was sort of depressed.

One thing that I noticed was that the left leg of his jeans was tattered. After a closer look, I could tell his leg was bleeding. I asked him if he needed a bandage and he said yes. While I was treating it with some infection killers, I asked him how it happened. He said that he and his girlfriend had a fight, and she shoved him. He tripped on a power cord and fell, knocking something over. He also said that his girlfriend was upset. I honestly feel bad for him with his awful girlfriend. It must have been a hard life.

### ***Testimony of Corr N. Flake***

I am Corr N. Flake. Nick and I have been best friends since college. We like to go to the mall every week and eat at a sandwich place called Sammy's. On the day of the expensive bag's purchase, Nick and I went to the mall to try a specialty sandwich.

During the meal, Nick got up to use the restroom but returned a little more than five minutes later to finish his meal. We were together for pretty much the entirety of the day shopping. We did not go into Channel that day, and barely made any purchases other than the specialty sandwich. The shops we did go to included the Lego™ store, a collector's store, and the skateboard store. We couldn't stay out late that night because Nick had an early morning commitment. Nick volunteers with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and he had to help set up for an event. Nick is a role model to the community because he donates his time and money. He even participates in community service projects through a local organization from time to time.

Two weeks after our shopping trip, Lacy called Nick in a flurry of rage, accusing him of buying something really costly on the day Nick and I went to the mall. I only really remember how we tried the sandwich and popped into some hobby stores.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

The plaintiff must set out such a convincing case against the defendant that the jury believes by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant is liable for damages. The plaintiff is suing Nick for fraudulent misrepresentation and is asking for \$8,000 in monetary damages. The amount is to cover the cost of the Channel bag.

## **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Is Lacy trustworthy if we know for a fact she shared her Apple Pay information with her ex-boyfriend?
2. Was the pharmaceutical worker's testimony reliable if he admits to snooping around Nick's text messages without his consent?
3. Was there enough time to buy a Chanel bag while Nick went to the bathroom?

## **CONCEPTS**

Fraudulent misrepresentation

## **LAW**

Misrepresentation of a material fact, made willfully to deceive or recklessly without knowledge and acted on by the opposite party or made innocently and mistakenly and acted on by the opposite party, constitutes legal fraud.



# CRUTCH'S SLIP UP: CRUTCH V. MULCHFERS SCHOOL

## SCHOOL

Hurden Looker Elementary  
Hillside  
Grade 6  
Second Place

## TEACHER

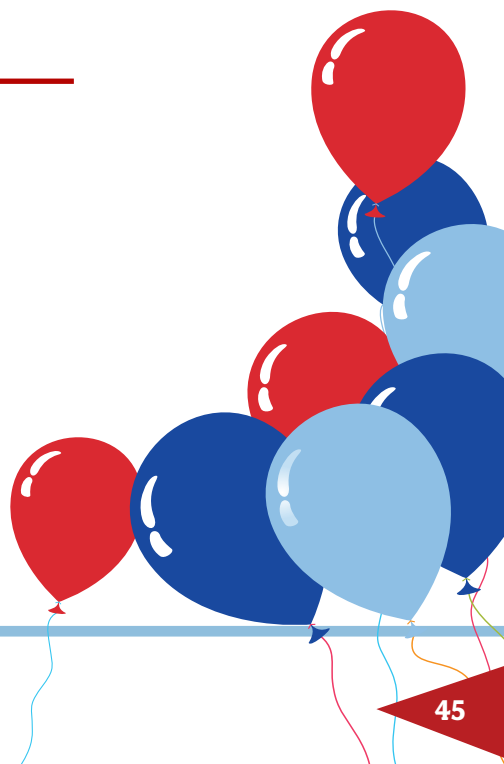
Marta Tran

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## STUDENTS

Sa'ad Abdulsalam  
Uwaila Agheyisi  
Anyeuru Checo Ramos  
Nodiana Glaude  
Gabriella Gustave  
Arthur Jovinski  
Kaylee Kaminski

Liyana Laguerre  
Alexa Lewis  
Manuela Oliveira  
Terrence Riche  
Xander Secreto  
Mouhamed Sow



## FACTS

On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, Legxie Crutch and her class were coming up from recess to her classroom on the second floor. Legxie fell behind and needed to hurry up to catch up to her class. She noticed that she was really far behind so she started jogging up the stairs to catch up with her class. The stairs are known to have rubber mulch due to kids tracking it into the building attached to their clothing/shoes. As she jogged up the stairs, she slipped on the rubber mulch that was on the stairs. Legxie fell and had a sharp pain in her ankle.

At the time of the accident, Legxie was wearing sneakers but her shoelaces were untied. You could see the mulch attached to her shoes and clothes just like the other students. The teachers usually tell the students to shake their clothes and stomp their feet before entering the building. Legxie was rushed to the hospital, where the doctors diagnosed her with a broken ankle. At that point, the doctors applied a cast on her ankle and sent her home with crutches. Legxie's insurance won't cover the full hospital bill. Legxie is looking for a hospital reimbursement from Mulchferd Elementary School.

## ISSUE

Is the Mulchferd Elementary School responsible for Legxie Crutch's broken ankle?

## WITNESSES

### *For the Plaintiff*

Axel Bark

Roger Fall

### *For the Defense*

Jax Walker

Rocky Jackson

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### *Testimony of Axel Bark*

On September 27, 2023, I was having a normal day at school. Legxie and I have last period lunch, so by the time recess is over, there is a lot of mulch on the stairs. It was around 12:50 p.m., right after lunch. By this time every other grade had gone up the stairs and their shoes and clothing carried mulch with them.

Legxie and I usually help our gym teacher, Mr. Stuff, put equipment away. Because we were putting equipment away, we were falling behind. Legxie and I were rushing and jogging up the stairs. I was a little ahead when I heard her fall. It sounded more like an object, which was what I thought it was, until I heard her cries.

I went down a few steps to get a better look at what happened, and I nearly slipped like she did but I grabbed the railing. Her ankle was bruised, swollen, puffed up, and her knee was bleeding a lot. Mr. Fall told me to go to the nearest teacher so they can call the office for a code blue.

As soon as I saw what had happened, I knew it was the mulches' fault. If I didn't hold on to the railing, I would have suffered the same fate as Legxie. This incident was obviously the school's fault because of their negligence. They should have bought better mulch that did not stick to the students clothes and shoes, and that wouldn't make the stairs slippery. Even if it did not happen to Legxie, it was bound to happen to any other student. Not only should Mulchferd Elementary School pay for Legxie's medical bills and physical therapy, they should also invest in better mulch so this does not happen to anyone else.

### ***Testimony of Roger Fall***

On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, we were on our way back to the classroom around 12:50, after lunch. I noticed that the mulch was falling off of my students with every step. I had already realized that there was mulch on the floor. I was already upstairs so I didn't think much of it until my student, Legxie Crutch, was jogging up the stairs to catch up to our class and then all of a sudden, she slipped on the mulch that was left behind. Legxie was screaming in pain.

Legxie tried to get up, but as she got up, her ankle got worse and she took a tumble and slipped on the mulch again. The principal was notified because I told Axel Bark to go to the nearest teacher to call the office. Then the office called code blue and after 15 minutes Legxie was rushed to the hospital. I assumed that the principal notified the parents.

### ***Testimony of Jax Walker***

On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, I was in the main office talking to a student about getting copy papers. I had my full attention with the student until he showed me on the security cameras a female student who started jogging in the hall. I wasn't paying much attention because that is an everyday thing. After about 1-5 seconds, we lost sight of her because she went into the stairwell.

After that we continued our conversation until I was called for a code blue. When I got the call and the location of the scene, I rushed to the problem and I saw Legxie whimpering and crying on the floor. I took pictures of the stairs for proof of the incident so I could write an incident report. The picture showed dry stairs and a little amount of mulch. Not a lot, so if she were to put force on the mulch, it would not have the chance to move around. The mulch is rubber

so it would have more grip than most things. Legxie was known by the 6th grade to be clumsy, she would fall almost everywhere. There are multiple prior reports of Legxie's incidents.

### ***Testimony of Rocky Jackson***

On September 27, 2023, I asked to use the bathroom during recess, but recess was already coming to an end. As I was coming back from the bathroom attached to the gym, I noticed that one of my fellow students started to accelerate up the stairs. There was a person in front of her. I believe that it was Axel. They were helping with the equipment from recess. As I was about to go the other way back to class, I heard Legxie's cries. I went back to check what happened and I saw a small amount of mulch on the stairs. Everytime I go up that certain flight of stairs, I did notice the mulch, but I never thought that it was slippery and that it was a problem. I also heard Mr. Fall tell Axel to go get a teacher.

Axel sprinted to get a teacher. Mr. Fall saw me, and told me to go back to class. As I was going back to class, I realized that even though there was mulch on the stairs, Legxie was jogging. I got to class and then someone over the loudspeaker called a code blue.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

The jury must decide by a preponderance of the evidence if Mulchferd Elementary School is responsible for the accident in which Legxie Crutch broke her ankle on the stairs.

### **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Was the fact that Legxie was running up the stairs to blame for the accident?
2. Were the stairs properly cleaned after each lunch period coming from recess?
3. Was the accident the fault of the running

- or the mulch on the steps?
4. Was the mulch slippery?
  5. Were there warning signs about the mulch?

## **CONCEPTS**

1. Failure to warn
2. Premise liability
3. Negligence
4. Failure to clean

## **LAW**

1. Failure to warn: The failure to warn is a principle of product liability laws. When the plaintiff says the defense fails to provide an adequate warning of the dangers which are associated with the use of the stairs, it is considered a failure to warn.
2. Premise Liability: Premise liability is the legal obligation placed on a property owner to protect visitors from suffering a significant injury while they are on the property. It is crucial to understand that states do differ on the obligations owed to people entering a property and how they should be classified.
3. Negligence: Negligence is a failure to exercise appropriate and/or ethical ruled care expected to be exercised amongst specified circumstances. The area of tort law known as negligence involves harm caused by failing to act as a form of carelessness possibly with extenuating circumstances.
4. Failure to clean: Failure to clean makes the owner of the property or premises liable for any slipping or falling accidents. The owner's sanitary system is liable for the hazards.



# THE CASE OF THE ELECTRIC SCOOTER CRASH

## SCHOOL

Malcolm E. Nettingham Middle  
Scotch Plains  
Grade 6  
Honorable Mention

## TEACHER

Nicole Ferreira

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## STUDENTS

Amanda Bailey  
Delaney Feltmann  
Joshua Jacob  
Apollo Levine  
Andrew Manos  
Claire Oelschlager

Anjali Patel  
Nathan Pegas  
Chloe Racinez  
Anika Rauniyar  
Sia Sharma  
Grady Strathern

## FACTS

On October 15, 2023, 15-year-old John Wilson was riding on his electric scooter that he got for his birthday the day before. He was on the way to the park to meet his friends at noon. John decided to stop at Domino's Pizza because he still had a lot of time left to get to the park and hadn't eaten lunch yet. John left Domino's at precisely 11:58 p.m., so he had to get to the park quickly. John began to speed up on his electric scooter to get there on time.

While he was going fast on his scooter, he rode out onto the street. At the same time that John rode out onto the street, Connor Jones was driving a U-Haul truck. Connor hit John in the middle of the road. Connor stopped the truck. Then he and his brother both jumped out of the truck and ran over to John. Connor immediately called 911.

A surgeon, Steve Samsung, saw Connor hit John and he rushed over immediately to help. John was lying unconscious on the ground. When the ambulance arrived, they rushed him to the hospital. The doctors then took many tests and X-rays and determined that he had broken his arms, his right leg, and his ankle. He also got a severe concussion because he was not wearing his helmet when crossing the road. John's family is suing Connor and Dylan Jones for \$52,000.

## ISSUES

Is Connor Jones liable for hitting John with the U-Haul?

Is John Wilson liable for not paying attention to the traffic and not wearing a helmet?

## WITNESSES

### *For the Plaintiff*

John Wilson

Steve Samsung

### *For the Defense*

Connor Jones

Dylan Jones

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

### *Testimony of John Wilson*

My name is John Wilson, and I am 15 years old. On October 15, 2023, I was riding on my electric scooter that I got for my birthday the day before. I was going to the park to meet some friends. As I was going, I had to speed up because I was running late to meet up with them. While I was crossing the road, Connor Jones, the truck driver, was driving a U-Haul truck and hit me. My doctors say I lost consciousness after being hit. I broke both of my arms, my left ankle, and my right leg. I had a severe concussion as well. My family is now suing Connor Jones for \$52,000. Mr. Jones should've paid more attention to where he was going.

### *Testimony of Steve Samsung*

My name is Steve Samsung, and I am 58 years old. I'm an experienced surgeon at Overlook Medical Hospital. I have been a surgeon for 28 years. On October 15, 2023, I was walking to my job when I witnessed John get hit by a truck. I was waiting on the other side of the crosswalk when John was crossing the road. That is when a U-Haul truck crossed the road and hit John.

As soon as I saw John get hit by that truck, I raced over to help the poor boy. He was bleeding badly. I noticed he wasn't responsive and that he was severely injured. Connor Jones immediately called 911. When the ambulance arrived, they told me to come with them to the hospital because I was the only surgeon not active at the time.

Once we got to the hospital, I ordered X-rays and determined that he had broken his arms, his right leg, and his ankle. I immediately started the surgery. After the

surgery, other doctors and surgeons found that he suffered from a severe concussion. Connor Jones should have been extremely careful when driving.

### ***Testimony of Connor Jones***

My name is Connor Jones, and I am a mover. I am 34 years old and have been a mover for 12 years. I have always successfully and safely driven my U-Haul. On October 15, my brother Dylan and I were listening to loud music in the U-Haul. While we were driving to a family's new home to drop off their furniture, we approached a stop sign, stopped, and then continued straight. As I was driving, John sped up across the road on his electric scooter, and I hit him. As soon as I did, I stopped my U-Haul and called 911. My brother and I immediately rushed over to help the boy up, and we stopped all cars that were coming near us.

Steve Samsung, a surgeon who saw John get hit, also rushed over to help John and brought him to the hospital. Even though I will probably lose my job, I just hope the boy is okay. It wasn't my fault that he was speeding on his electric scooter without a helmet. He should have looked both ways before crossing the street.

### ***Testimony of Dylan Jones***

My name is Dylan Jones, and I am 31 years old. My brother and I are movers, and we were helping a family move to their new home. When we came to the stop sign, my brother quickly looked both ways. Connor pressed the pedal to move forward, John suddenly crossed our path, and my brother accidentally hit him. As soon as our truck hit the boy, Connor hit the brakes, we both jumped out, and he called 911. We rushed over to help the boy and made sure to stop all cars that were coming close to us.

The kid's parents should have taught him that he must look both ways before crossing the street and he should pay attention to the traffic and the road. It is not Connor's fault, and he is not liable for what happened to John Wilson.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

The plaintiff must prove by a preponderance of evidence that Connor Jones and Dylan Jones are liable for the injuries of John Wilson.

### **SUB-ISSUES**

1. Why wasn't John Wilson paying attention to the traffic?
2. Why wasn't John Wilson wearing a helmet?
3. Do John Wilson's parents have anything to do with him getting hurt?
4. Do John Wilson's parents know about the laws about how he can't operate an electric scooter at his age and must wear a helmet on an electric scooter?

### **CONCEPTS**

1. Damages
2. Preponderance of the evidence

### **LAW**

Riders of electric scooters must follow bike laws. Riders also must wear helmets that are required for anyone under 17 and may ride up to 19 mph. Motorized scooters are not allowed to use bike or pedestrian lanes.

When a driver hits a pedestrian/rider, they must immediately stop their vehicle. If they don't stop or leave the scene, drivers will be charged with a hit and run. If charged, fines will be \$200 or more and/or jail time will be 30 or more days depending on the consequence.



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