

SILENCE IN COURT

Written by

James Alexander Allen

INT. COURTROOM- DAY

An old courtroom. The JURORS babble incoherently as they wait. The JUDGE comes to his lectern and strikes his HAMMER. The chatter dies down as the TITLE CARD comes up:

SILENCE IN COURT!

A MAN in a long concealing coat is brought to the dock. This is the DEFENDANT. The Judge regards him with contempt and points at the PROSECUTION LAWYER.

The Prosecution Lawyer rises to her feet with a BRIEFCASE. She presents the briefcase before opening and shutting it in quick succession: *This is an open-and-shut case.*

She then approaches the Defendant in the dock and dramatically PULLS OFF his coat to reveal-

The Defendant is wearing a striped shirt and has a SWAG BAG at his feet.

To finish the effect, the Prosecutor places a BLACK CAP and MASK on his head.

The Judge writes a note in his BOOK and gestures expectantly at the Defendant: *Well how do you plead to that?*

The Defendant shakes his head furiously.

The DEFENCE LAWYER then gets up and stands behind the Defendant. He molds his client's face into a smile, and forces his hand into a thumbs up.

The Defence Lawyer stands back and presents the image: *He's a nice person, look at him!*

The Judge nods and shoos the Defendant back down. He opens a BOOK with our logo on it and jots some notes.

The VICTIM comes up to give her testimony. She has a bloody BANDAGE around her head.

The Prosecution Lawyer turns to her and gestures for her to begin.

EXT. STREETS- DAY

The VICTIM walks through town, no bandage yet, lost in her own world.

A HOODED FIGURE (later revealed to be the DEFENDANT) watches her approach. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a SLIP OF PAPER.

As the Victim approaches, the Defendant treads up to her and gently taps her on the shoulder, feigning alarm.

She stops to react. The Defendant unfolds his slip of paper and shows her:

A PICTURE OF DONALD TRUMP.

He then frantically points: *Behind you!*

The Victim spins round, outraged, and raises her fist for a punch.

The Defendant seizes his chance and pinches her WALLET out of her coat pocket.

Too late she realises, as he's running away down the street.

The Victim double takes, and chases after him.

INT. COURTROOM- DAY

The Defence Lawyer steps up to the victim. He produces a HOODIE and pulls the hood over his face. He tries to point at the Defendant, but cannot see and points at the Judge instead. Embarrassed, he corrects himself to point at the Defendant: *his face was hidden?*

The Victim sheepishly nods.

The Defence Lawyer looks around the court and pulls the hood over him again, points at the Defendant again and shrugs: *how do we even know it was him?*

The JURY consider this.

The Judge shoos the Victim away and beckons the Defendant back up.

The Prosecution Lawyer holds up a MAP of town, points to the Defendant and then to the map: *Where were you?*

The Defendant shrugs and points to the beach.

The Prosecution Lawyer smiles and produces a PHONE with the camera on. She plays some footage recorded on it:

It shows the Victim fighting with the Defendant.

EXT. STREETS- DAY

The VICTIM catches up with the DEFENDANT and grabs at him, trying to get her wallet back. The Defendant tries to break out of her grasp but she's relentless.

A PASSERBY sees them fighting. Interested, he takes his PHONE out and starts filming.

The Victim reaches for the Defendant's hood, almost pulling it off-

The Defendant SHOVES her backwards, knocking her down.

The Passerby winces as she hits the floor, injuring her head.

The Defendant briefly regrets knocking her over. He rubs his head, knocking off his hood. Too late he sees the Passerby filming him on his phone.

PHONE PERSPECTIVE

The Defendant considers chasing him, but then just decides to run for it!

Suddenly the film rewinds, freezing on a clear image of the Defendant's face:

INT. COURTROOM- DAY

The Prosecution Lawyer displays the image on the phone, prompting gasps around the room.

The Defence Lawyer sighs, throws his arms up and runs out of the room.

The Judge watches him go, uninterested, then turns to the JURY. He indicates the Prosecution and Defence in turn, then thumbs them away: *You've heard both sides, now make your minds up!*

He picks up his LOGO BOOK and reads it as they go.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM- DAY

The JURY leave the court. The LEAD JUROR closes the door behind him, making sure nobody's looking. She then addresses the other Jurors.

The Lead Juror presents a coin:

Heads= thumbs up, Tails= thumbs down.

The Jury await the outcome.

She tosses the coin and catches, checking the result. She gestures them all to leave.

The Jurors file out slowly as she goes to flip the coin again.

INT. COURTROOM- DAY

The DEFENDANT stands before the JUDGE as the DEFENCE and PROSECUTION LAWYERS look on. The Judge shrugs impatiently at the JURY: *Well?*

The JURORS all give a THUMBS DOWN.

The Judge nods and shuts his LOGO BOOK. He then THROWS the logo book straight at the defendant, hitting him in the head!

CUT TO BLACK.

END CREDITS.