

Linkterpreting

Plataforma de recursos para la interpretación de enlace

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Legal Interpretation – Role play 4

Length: 04:14.

Quality: medium.

Difficulty: medium.

Based on the video *Criminal Damage*, from the Ministry of Justice website,
available at <http://www.ybtj.justice.gov.uk>

Actors

John Brown (defendant), judge, witness (Spanish woman), prosecution, defence.

Context

John Brown is accused of damaging three cars and a garage door. The trial takes place in a United Kingdom courtroom, where the judge will determine whether he is guilty or not guilty, and consequently, will impose the corresponding punishment.

The help of an interpreter is needed so that the witness, a Spanish woman, can understand the process.

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Juez: John Brown, on the 23rd of March, without lawful excuse, you damaged three vehicles and a garage door. Do you plead guilty or not guilty?

John Brown: Not guilty.

[Se llama a la testigo a declarar]

Testigo: Me despertó un hombre gritando muy fuerte. Fui a mirar a la ventana y lo vi tambaleándose por la calle. Estaba bastante borracho. Luego me pareció que estaba rayando el capó de un coche. Paró y se dirigió al siguiente coche.

Acusación: So what did you do then?

Testigo: Me pareció que se dirigía a mi coche, así que abrí la ventana y le grité que parase. Cuando me vio se enfureció y rayó mi coche. Después se fue corriendo. Mi marido y yo bajamos para mirar nuestro coche y vimos que estaba rayado. También vimos que había marcas en otros dos coches de unos vecinos. Fue entonces cuando llamamos a la policía.

Acusación: What happened after the police arrived?

Testigo: Llegaron a las 2:30 de la madrugada y vieron al hombre haciendo un grafiti en la puerta de un garaje. Lo registraron y encontraron una llave con pintura. Lo arrestaron y me llamaron para una rueda de reconocimiento.

[La defensa y la acusación intervienen para defender a sus clientes]

Acusación: Mr Brown has a previous conviction for damaging property. He's clearly not learned any lessons from this and Your Worship should take this into account in sentencing for this offence.

Defensa: My client's previous conviction was seven years ago and was committed when he was a juvenile. He has not reoffended since. In my submission it is neither recent nor relevant and should not be given any weight in your deliberations.

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Acusación: I would remind Your Worship that the fact that Mr Brown was drunk is neither a defence nor a mitigating factor in this case. As you are well aware, the guidelines state that committing an offence while drunk makes it more serious, not less.

Defensa: This is not characteristic behaviour. He was drunk because of a traumatic break up with his girlfriend. I am not suggesting that Mr Brown being drunk should act in his favour, I am asking you to consider, as a mitigating factor, the personal issues that led him to get drunk in the first place.

Your Worship will have seen a letter from Mr Brown's employer about his good character. Mr Brown has had a steady job as a delivery man for over a year. If he received a prison sentence, he would lose his job, which would do nothing to help his prospects of rehabilitation.

Juez: Is there anything you want to say, Mr Brown?

John Brown: My girlfriend broke it off that night. I was gutted. I'd been with her nearly two years. I don't know what happened, I just lost it. It definitely won't happen again.

Juez: Please stand Mr Brown. For the offence of criminal damage, we can impose a maximum sentence of three months in prison.

However, we consider your offence serious enough to impose a community sentence as well. We have taken into account your previous conviction but noted that this was for a single offence and committed some time ago. We took into account that you were drunk, which is no excuse for your actions. However, we have also borne in mind that your behaviour was uncharacteristic and prompted by the breakup of your relationship, and that you have shown genuine remorse.

Weighing up these factors, we felt your behaviour would be better tackled by way of a high-level community sentence. It will give you the opportunity to put something back into your community.

Given that you are employed, we have also added compensation to the victims of your crime to the sentence.