

Introduction to the Mock Trial

The readers of the transcript of the mock trial, just like the spectators, must make several assumptions about the situation. Because of the main intent to focus upon the examinations of the experts and the utilization of expert testimony, much material usually presented, seen, or discussed in a real trial has been truncated and/or condensed. All that is presented in this demonstration trial is that portion involving expert testimony. The reader must assume that evidence had previously been presented by the petitioner, the father; by the respondent, the mother; and by her mother, Robert Vesco's grandmother. The reader must also assume that other material such as hospital records, etc., had likewise been introduced previously. The reader must assume that a standoff has resulted from the presentation of the evidence and the witnesses, and that the fact-finder thereupon called for a court-appointed expert to examine all parties in the case. Doctor Robey is the court-appointed expert. For the purposes of this demonstration, the situation was set up whereby a private psychiatrist (Doctor Sadoff), hired by Mr. Rosten, the attorney for the mother, would have access to only one side of the case. Finally, it must be assumed that a motion has been made during a previous hearing that the boy, Robert Vesco, should be examined by the judge in chambers, and that the judge has taken that matter under advisement until the conclusion of the pertinent testimony. The demonstration trial and the reports prepared for it were originally set in the spring of 1975. This was appropriate to the original presentation of the APA annual meeting. The participants decided to maintain those original dates because of the previous rehearsals and already-prepared materials. Thus, the reader will note the references to a time much preceding this presentation of the hearing.

The trial is arranged so that the court-appointed expert will testify first, and the private psychiatrist for the respondent, second. At the conclusion, the experts and the advocates will present comments about the case and its presentation and problems, and then Judge Lindsley will present his views on the presentation, as well as his decision.

The typography has also been specifically arranged. The actual testimony of the experts and the questions of the examiners, as well as the comments or rulings of the judge, are set in the same type as routinely used in the *Bulletin*. The asides, those comments addressed to the audience by judge, attorney, or expert during the course of the trial, are set in italics. At the conclusion of the testimony portion of the hearing, a row of asterisks demarcates that portion devoted to the after-testimony comments of the participants and members of the audience.

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