



## Dewey, Cheetham & Howe

*The first thing we do, let's kill  
all the lawyers.*

Shakespeare, Henry VI

**N**ATION: TORTISTAN

FOUNDED: c. 1166 (Henry II)

POPULATION: 19.5 million (est.)

RELIGION: Litigation

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Defense Team's Closing Statement:**

Right Honorable Judge Hank M. High,  
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury:  
Meaning no disrespect to my esteemed  
colleagues on the prosecution, this matter  
referred to as *The People vs. The Legal  
Profession* is nothing other than what we in  
the legal biz like to call a *frivolous lawsuit*.  
In fact, not only is it frivolous, but it's trivial,  
without merit, ill-advised, unwarranted,  
vindictive, defamatory, and really stupid.

With all due respect, your Honor, I really  
should be out on the course today hitting  
golf balls rather than trapped in here having  
to argue against such a flimsy and ground-  
less class action suit!...But never mind all  
that, let's review the facts, shall we?

The Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants  
engaged in unfair and deceptive practices—  
including but not limited to the following:

a) *The legal profession is discriminatory  
towards women and minorities.*

This is factually incorrect. There is a glut  
of new lawyers coming out of law school  
every year, and most of them are women.  
In fact, women make particularly good  
divorce lawyers, as attested to by the  
common reference within the profession to  
female lawyers as 'pit-bulls with lipstick.'  
No offence to the presiding judge, but the  
'Good Old Boys Club' is a thing of the past.

b) *In most class action suits, the lawyers get rich while plaintiffs get little or nothing.*

The prosecution cites as evidence an insurance industry study which found that on average, only 43 percent of liability settlement dollars goes to plaintiffs. In fact, in one major second-hand smoke lawsuit against tobacco companies, the lawyers received \$49 million and their 60,000 class action clients almost nothing.

There are many perfectly good reasons for this, ranging from having to compensate for all the pro bono work lawyers do, to the fact that attorneys on both sides of class action lawsuits purposely try to get cases to drag out forever in pursuit of bigger legal fees. (It's no accident that one prominent class action law firm, Morrison Foerster, is known throughout the profession as MoFo.)

c) *Lawyers are corrupt.*

This one is laughable. The prosecution cites as 'Exhibit A' the fact that unlike with most other professions, there are no global plaintiff class action firms, and makes the absurd claim that this is because the most profitable, attractive candidates for a merger regularly engage in malpractice or fraud.

While we concede that a potential partner might be dissuaded from taking over a corrupt firm after undergoing proper due diligence, the logic in such an assumption is flawed: Since the pursuing firm is just as likely to be corrupt, why should they care?

Practitioners of law are obliged to follow strict codes of conduct, paramount among which are the The Lawyer's Creed: 'A man is innocent until he is proven broke.'

d) *Lawyers are arrogant, intimidating, smug, aloof, egotistical, and humorless.*

We plead guilty on this one. You can't be a milquetoast and be an effective lawyer. Simply stated, nice guys don't win cases.

You've got to be willing—even eager—to go in there and absolutely eviscerate your opponent, without mercy or hesitation.

As for being 'humorless', the courtroom is no place for cracking jokes. As the great H. L. Mencken said: "The Penalty for laughing in court is six months in jail. If it were not for this penalty, the jury would never hear the evidence."

e) *Some male lawyers have inappropriate relationships with their female clients.*

Another absurd allegation. For numerous reasons, society prohibits sex between lawyers and their clients. (For example, in order to prevent clients from being billed twice for essentially the same service.)

f) *Lawyers are callous, uncaring, unsympathetic, and lacking in empathy.*

If you think we don't care about our clients, try missing a few fee payments!

Finally, perhaps the most commonly heard complaint of all against the legal profession:

g) *Lawyers are blood sucking parasites.*

In summary, the Prosecution alleges that lawyers are "good for nothing", citing a Pew Research poll of Americans in which fully a third (34%) of respondents agreed with the statement: *Lawyers contribute not very much or nothing at all to society.*

This is slanderous, false, and malicious. Exorbitant legal fees contribute greatly to the nation's GDP—and as for what lawyers are quote "good for"—well, for starters, we make used car salesmen look good.

Frankly, one risks one's life to practice law, as evidenced by the high number of traffic fatalities involving lawyers ramming their BMWs into the backs of ambulances.

Granted, we're not perfect. As in any line of work, there are good lawyers and bad lawyers. The problem is simply that 99% of them give the rest a bad name. ■