

(INSERT NAME OF COURT)

Judge (INSERT NAME)

(INSERT DATE)

Summary: Criminal Mock Trial of Cruel Elia versus Pancho Clos

Plaintiff: The prosecutor calls Cruel Elia di Ablá, who accuses Pancho Clos of impersonating Santa, because he tries to look like him and fool children; of trespassing, because he broke into the hotel, the animal shelter, and people’s homes without permission; and of breaking and entering, because he entered to steal milk and cookies intended for Santa and let the 101 chihuahueño puppies loose, when she wanted them for her new coat.

Defense: Pancho Clos denies all charges. He is innocent of impersonation because he doesn’t try to look like his cousin, Santa, and, in fact, does not; innocent of trespassing because children hope and pray he will visit their homes and would be disappointed if he didn’t; and innocent of breaking and entering because he is there to give presents, not to take anything. He helps Santa by visiting children who otherwise wouldn’t receive gifts.

Witness for Plaintiff: With her friend, bear, in the audience, Mashita agrees to testify against Pancho because she got confused when she saw him. Worried that Santa wouldn’t visit children because Pancho Clos did, she also was upset he was abusing his burros because they pulled his sleigh and because one of them had a red nose. When reminded Santa’s reindeer pull his sleigh and Rudolph has a red nose, she gets more confused.

Witness for Defense: Blue Santa says he is Pancho Clos’s compadre and that both of them are Santa’s helpers. They love Laredo children, local food—especially tripitás (grilled intestines), and the great weather. He says the children love Pancho and know the difference between him and Santa. His testimony is supported by three surprise witnesses—Santa Claus and two more of his helpers, Soup R. Mann and Wunder Woman!

Closing Arguments: The prosecutor argues the law is the law, “no matter who you are” and “we are all equal under the law.” He says Santa Claus, Pancho Clos, Blue Santa, Soup R. Mann, and Wunder Woman should obey the law, as we do. Pancho, he says, is guilty of making children think he’s Santa, of entering places without permission and by force, and of stealing Santa’s milk and cookies and the 101 chihuahueñitos Cruel Elia needed for her coat. He cannot believe the superheroes who are known for enforcing the law, are asking jurors to ignore it for their friend, Pancho. That is not right, and it is not fair. Parents should prefer the real Santa in their homes, not this bad hombre and fake Santa. He is guilty of all charges.

The defense argues suing Pancho Clos is like suing Santa. Foey on the prosecutor and on Cruel Elia! They would steal Christmas from boys and girls who would not get gifts from Pancho, Santa’s bilingual, bicultural helper who loves to visit them, wearing his sombrero and sarape. Impersonate Santa? Santa would sooner impersonate Pancho! He is welcomed everywhere, so he is innocent of trespassing; and he didn’t force his entry to steal anything, so he is innocent of breaking and entering. Cruel Elia, the wife of Dracula, is not a credible witness, nor is Mashita, who was confused. The superheroes all support Pancho Clos and need his help. They wouldn’t lie! The jury should find him “Not Guilty!”

– Senator Judith Zaffirini