

Access to Justice: Class in the Courtroom
(INSERT NAME OF COURT)
(INSERT NAME OF JUDGE)

Gobernador versus Zorr-oh: A criminal mock trial script
appropriate for high school students

Charges: assault, property damage, breaking and entering

Participants in Trial

Presiding Judge	(INSERT)
Star Witness: Gobernador Mentíroso	(INSERT)
Defendant: Zorr-oh	(INSERT)
Witness: Alana Mentíroso	(INSERT)
Witness: Robin Hoodie	(INSERT)
Prosecutor (male or female)	(INSERT)
Attorney for Defense (female)	(INSERT)
Bailiff	(INSERT)
Sergeant-at-Arms	(INSERT)

PROPS

Subpoena for Alana Mentíroso
Legal documents for Alana Mentíroso
Theme music for “The People’s Court” and Zorro
White crystal rock pops labeled “Zorro Zweets”

SCENE

12 student jurors are seated in the jury box in (INSERT NAME OF COURT)
Deputy court officers are seated or stand at appropriate stations.
Students comprising the Court of Public Opinion sit on benches with their teachers.

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: All rise.

(Judge enters and sits at his bench.)

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: (INSERT NAME OF COURT) of the State of Texas is now in session. (INSERT NAME OF JUDGE) presiding.

JUDGE: Welcome to (INSERT NAME OF COURT). Please be seated.

(Judge names each school/college represented and asks its students and teachers to stand and be recognized. There may be as many as four schools.)

Today we have some very special guests, students from (INSERT). Would you please stand and be recognized? (Applause)

JUDGE: Please be seated. *(Repeat as necessary, calling each school/college.)*

(Judge introduces honor guests who also are sponsors. DO NOT introduce them again as honor guests or as sponsors.)

JUDGE: We have some honor guests who also are sponsors of our mock trials, (INSERT).

(Judge introduces elected and appointed officials and sponsors who are present. He introduces others throughout the trial as they arrive.)

JUDGE: Other honor guests with us today are (INSERT).

Other sponsors with us today are (INSERT).

JUDGE: Bailiff!

BAILIFF: The case of Gobernador versus Zorr-oh is now ready for trial.

(Judge calls the prosecutor and his/her star witness, the defendant and his attorney, the prosecution's witness, and the defendant's witness. As they are called, they enter to theme music from "The People's Court" from the door opposite the judge's bench, stand before him to be sworn-in, and then sit at their assigned places as the next witnesses are introduced and sworn-in.)

JUDGE: The prosecutor is (NAME), and his/her star witness is Gobernador Mentíroso. *(Pronounced initially in English, Mehn-tee-roh-soh)*

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

(Prosecutor and star witness walk in to theme music from “The People’s Court,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0F-IHwgC-Q>. Gobernator is obnoxious and arrogant, but likeable, throughout. They stand before the judge so he can be sworn-in, and then they take their seats at the prosecutor’s table.)

JUDGE: Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

GOBERNATOR: *(Quickly, disingenuously)* I do. And I mean it. I really, really mean it. I never lie about anything. Nobody tells the truth like me. The real truth and not the fake truth like....

JUDGE: *(Interrupting, fed-up with answer)* Thank you. *(Bangs gavel)*

(Star witness, chagrined, and prosecutor, calming him, sit at prosecutor’s table.)

JUDGE: The defendant, Zorr-oh, is represented by his attorney, (NAME).

(Zorro theme music plays as defendant walks in, led by his attorney, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RM58g34O-cA>. They stand before the judge so the defendant can be sworn in, and then they take their seats at the defendant’s table. Enters with flair, perhaps twirling his cape. He is charming, likable, friendly, approachable throughout. Never arrogant. Music fades as Zorro reaches the judge’s bench.)

JUDGE: Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God? And, please, simply answer, “I do.”

ZORR-OH: I do. But to quote Shakespeare, Your Honor, “Methinks” Gobernator “doth protest too much.”

(Zorr-oh slides his fingers across the rim of his hat as he turns toward the audience—as in this clip, at approximately 12 seconds in:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFogW3DsfYM>.)

PROSECUTOR: *(Zorr-oh and attorney stop walking.)* Your Honor, I object to Zorr-oh wearing his hat and mask in the courtroom. That is against our rules of decorum.

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I respectfully request an exception, Your Honor. Everyone knows Zorr-oh by his hat and mask. Besides, they are essential for his safety.

JUDGE: In the interest of courtroom security, I'll allow it. (*Prosecutor acts chagrined.*) Ultimately, the jury has to weigh the witness' credibility, hat or no hat. (*Pronounced in Spanish, sohm-breh-roh*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honor.

ZORR-OH: (*Bowing gallantly*) Gracias, su señoría. (*Pronounced in Spanish, soo, sehn-knee-ohw-ree-ah*)

JUDGE: No one ever calls me "su señoría." Most people don't know that's Spanish for "Your Honor," right?

ZORR-OH: (*Nodding*) Sí, your honor.

(*Zorr-oh and his attorney sit at the defendant's table.*)

JUDGE: (*Smiling*) Thank you for that judicial fun fact.

(*Theme song for "The People's Court resumes."*) Another witness for the prosecution is Alana Mentíroso. (*Pronounced initially in English, Ah-lah-nah, Mehn-tee-roh-soh*)

(*No one walks in. There is an awkward silence as music continues. After a few uncomfortable seconds, the judge announces her name again.*)

JUDGE: Another witness for the prosecution is Alana Mentíroso. (*Pronounced initially in English, Ah-lah-nah, Mehn-tee-roh-soh*)

(*Music starts again. Again, there is awkward silence. After 2-3 seconds, music fades, and the judge calls for her again.*)

JUDGE: Third call for Alana Mentíroso.

(*Music starts again. After another 2-3 seconds, music stops.*) Mr./Ms. Prosecutor, did you subpoena your witness?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, Your Honor, and she had breakfast with her father, Gobernator Mentíroso (*Pronounced initially in English, Mehn-tee-roh-soh*) this

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

morning. Maybe she ate too many pigs feet and calf tripe. Those delicacies can upset the strongest stomach.

JUDGE: If she does not appear when her name is called to testify, then I will execute a warrant for her arrest.

To continue: The witness for the defense is Robin Hoodie.

(Witness walks in to the theme music from “Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves. Select a dramatic part, perhaps at 1 minute:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5Edkb2Qo9c>He is friendly, funny, and likable throughout. He stands before the judge to be sworn-in, and then sits at assigned place.)

JUDGE: Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

WITNESS: I do.

(Witness sits at assigned seat in front of judge’s bench, facing the courtroom.)

JUDGE: *(Music stops.)* I understand the charges against Zorr-oh are assault, property damage, and breaking and entering. Is everyone ready to proceed?

ATTORNEYS: *(Standing)* Yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Will the bailiff or deputy bailiff please swear-in the jury?

(After the 12 jurors are chosen, the bailiff or deputy bailiff needs to tell them what they will do during the trial and how they will answer during their swearing-in. If they don’t stand, raise their right hands, or respond, the bailiff or deputy bailiff needs to prompt them.)

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: Will the jurors please stand and raise your right hands?

(Jurors stand and raise their right hands.)

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: Do you solemnly swear that you will listen to all the testimony today and decide the issues fairly?

JURORS: I do.

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

Do you swear that you will not discuss this case with anyone until after you have reached a verdict?

JURORS: I do.

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: You may be seated.

(Jurors sit.)

Your Honor, the jurors have been sworn in and are ready to begin.

JUDGE: Does the prosecution have an opening statement?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, Your Honor. The prosecution will show that Zorr-oh is guilty of assault, which is defined as causing bodily harm to someone; property damage, which is deliberately damaging somebody's property; and breaking and entering, which means entering somebody's property by force without permission to commit a burglary of other evil act.

This masked maverick is a menace to Gobernador Mentiroso (*Pronounced initially in English, Mehn-tee-roh-soh*) and his soldiers. The evidence will show that Zorr-oh gleefully strikes them down, maims or destroys their property, and enters their properties at will. To add insult to injury, he carves his "Z" as a calling card to aggravate their irritation—just to poke them in the eye.

And what's up with his hiding behind that mask? (*Laughing sarcastically*) I'll bet he's bald and has zits. If so, I'd wear a hat and a mask too!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! Counselor is badgering the witness.

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

Counselor, please be respectful.

PROSECUTOR: To continue: "Zorro" (*Pronounced in Spanish, zohr-oh*) may be Spanish for "fox," but he acts like a zorrillo. (*Pronounced in Spanish, zohr-ee-yoh*) That's Spanish for skunk. And Lord knows, he smells like one. Pee-uuu!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! Does Counselor intend to badger the defendant non-stop?

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

(*Addressing prosecutor*) Be warned, Counselor. In this court, everyone is expected to be respectful. Please continue.

PROSECUTOR: (*Shrugging off reprimand; addressing jury*) Zorr-oh finally was outfoxed and arrested, and it is your duty to hold him accountable for his misdeeds. I hope you like pudding, cause today you're "pudding" him in jail.

When you hear the evidence, you most certainly will agree that Zorr-oh is guilty of assault, guilty of property damage, and guilty of breaking and entering. Thank you.

JUDGE: Counsel for the defense?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, please disregard those very tacky, totally cheap insults against Zorr-oh. The evidence clearly will show that he is not guilty of any of these outrageous charges.

In case you never heard of Zorr-oh, "Wikipedia" describes him as "one of the earliest examples of a fictional masked avenger with a double identity...a precursor of the superheroes of American comic books," like Batman and Robin.

He risks his life to protect and defend the young, the old, and the poor from the terrorism and bullying of Gobernator Mentíroso (*Pronounced initially in English, Meh-tee-roh-soh*) and his soldiers.

Esos topos flojos son miedosos y cobardes. (*Pronounced in Spanish, eh-sohs, toh-pohs, floh-hohs, sohn, mee-eh-doh-sos, ee, koh-bahr-des*) Those dumb, lazy, scared cowards could never outfox the greatest fox of all—el Zorr-oh himself!

Our masked crusader never picks a fight or starts one. But he'll meet bullies and oppressors face-to-face, no matter the odds. He never backs off! He fights only in self-defense or to defend others.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you most certainly will disappoint the prosecution when you hear the evidence and find Zorr-oh not guilty. Thank you.

JUDGE: The prosecution may call its first witness.

PROSECUTOR: Thank you, Your Honor.

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

The prosecution calls Gobernator Mentíroso. (*Pronounced in English, mehn-tee-roh-soh*)

(Star witness takes the witness stand.)

PROSECUTOR: State your full name for the record, please.

GOBERNATOR: Gobernator Élfeo Mentíroso. (*Pronounced in Spanish, goh-behr-nah-dorh, ehl-feh-oh, mehn-tee-roh-soh*)

PROSECUTOR: Where do you live?

GOBERNATOR: In my Gobernator mansion on the banks of the (INSERT LOCAL RIVER OR LAKE), with my daughter, Alana.

PROSECUTOR: Tell the judge and the jury about this masked man in black who calls himself Zorr-oh.

GOBERNATOR: His fans call him “el Zorr-oh,” or “the Fox.” My soldiers call him a mega-bandit because that thief doesn’t steal anything small.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor!

JUDGE: (*Interrupting*) Sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

The witness is directed to answer the question directly and not to narrate.

PROSECUTOR: Gobernator, when or how did Zorr-oh cause you property damage?

GOBERNATOR: One day after breaking and entering into my armory, he destroyed a ton of dynamite and other explosives—(*Miffed*) even my firecrackers—for my Sixteenth of September party.

He also single-handedly and deliberately destroyed our most effective tool for enforcing law-and-order, which is named after me, the famous Mentíroso Horca, (*Pronounced in Spanish, ohr-kah*).

PROSECUTOR: How can one man cause all that havoc?

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

GOBERNATOR: (*Incredulous*) “It isn’t just one man.” It’s Zorr-oh! (*Quoting “The Legend of Zorro”*) They don’t call him “Chaos” for nothing! Unadulterated chaos!

PROSECUTOR: Did he ever assault you or anyone else in your presence?

GOBERNATOR: What do you think, dude? Oops! Pardon me. I was warned to call you Mr. Attorney, not “guy” or “dude”!

PROSECUTOR: Can you give us an example?

GOBERNATOR: I can’t count the millions of times he’s thrown his black hat like a Frisbee to knock my soldiers senseless. Clearly, it’s weighted. That’s cheating. No real hombre (*Pronounced in Spanish, ohm-breh*) uses his hat like a weapon. Real men don’t need to cheat.

PROSECUTOR: But can you give us a specific example of his assaulting you!

GOBERNATOR: His right punch is a real snotsprayer.

PROSECUTOR: Excuse me, what is a “snotsprayer”?

GOBERNATOR: (*Mimicking a punch with his fist and a wide spray with his arm*) That’s when someone hits your nose so hard, your snot sprays anyone close by—except him. (*Ducking*) He ducks.

PROSECUTOR: That’s a pretty nasty fun fact. Any other example?

GOBERNATOR: Yes. He uses his big black cape like a flying weapon. Makes me wonder: Who does he think he is? Superman or Batman? Frankly, he brings shame to bullfighters and superheroes everywhere.

PROSECUTOR: Are those his only weapons?

GOBERNADOR: ¡No way, José! I’m sure he doesn’t have a license, but he has a concealed weapon—a knife—in his boots. He calls it his gut-ripper!

But his assault weapon of choice is his sword. “Open carry” is legal in Texas, so he doesn’t bother to conceal it.

PROSECUTOR: Has he harmed you in any way?

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

GOBERNATOR: *(Making a large sign of a “Z” backward with his finger as he says the letter)* He’s so egocentric, he carves his “Z” on our property and even on us! That’s a two-for-one crime: property damage and assault!

PROSECUTOR: Did you say Zorr-oh carves his “Z” on you?

GOBERNATOR: Exactly! That’s particularly embarrassing because everyone in Texas knows or should know that “Z” in Spanish is “Zeta.” Then people wrongly think we’re branded members of that infamous cartel in Mexico.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! That information has not been entered into the record. Now the prosecutor is assuming facts not in evidence.

JUDGE: That’s what he’s trying to do, Counselor, and he’s laying the proper foundation. Objection overruled. *(Bangs gavel)*

PROSECUTOR: Has Zorr-oh ever assaulted you?

GOBERNATOR: ¡Si, señor! That common cowardly coward even Z’d me too! *(Standing and opening his shirt to show a “Z” on his chest—or, alternatively, showing a “Z” on his cheek)*

PROSECUTOR: No further questions.

JUDGE: Does the defense wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Yes, Your Honor.

Gobernator, that’s a mighty fine scar! Does it hurt?

GOBERNATOR: *(Defiantly)* No!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Is it a permanent scar, or will it go away?

GOBERNATOR: Well, my mommy put some puppy bone marrow, snake tongue, and frog tails on it, as she promised me it would go away. I learned a long time ago that those hard-to-get animal body parts heal anything—especially if applied with a kiss for today—and one for tomorrow! *(Laughs flirtatiously)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: *(Incredulously)* “Your mommy...?” Let’s not go there.

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

Can you give me any other examples of Zorr-oh assaulting you or your soldiers—or anyone else, for that matter?

GOBERNATOR: (*Looking at his watch*) How much time do we have?

He's taken-on dozens of my men, sometimes at once. He's assaulted thousands of us for decades and decades. Some of my men have nightmares about that ominous cowboy in black!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Excuse me, for decades and decades?

GOBERNATOR: (*Nodding*) For decades and decades and decades.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Incredulously*) Excuse me, sir. How old do you think Zorr-oh is?

GOBERNATOR: Now that's a good question. All I know is, he's been around for decades and decades.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: How can that be true when—look at him.

(*Looking admiringly, extending hand toward Zorr-oh, and sighing*) I mean: Look. At. Him. He doesn't look anywhere near 30?

GOBERNATOR: (*Looking around suspiciously*) He has to be at least 60! I think he's bewitched! Maybe the Weeping Woman kidnapped him when he was a baby, and she and her wickety witch friends gave him special powers so he could (*Acting out actions*) fight with all his might—hurting others, but never getting hurt; wounding others, but never getting wounded; slashing others, but never getting slashed—and never getting old.

¡Aha! That's it! He's a warlock! An evil sorcerer! The Weeping Woman bewitched him!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Cynically; rubbing her chin*) I seeee! Mmm-hmm. OK. Whatever....

Where does Zorr-oh usually fight you?

GOBERNATOR: He usually appears out of nowhere. Like he crawls out of his foxhole when we're trying to enforce the laws in the barrios. Some say he's

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

cunning and sly like his English namesake, the fox. I say he's sneaky like a fox, vicious like a snake, and stinky like a skunk.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Precisely what laws do you try to enforce that draw Zorr-oh's attention?

GOBERNATOR: (*Arrogantly*) Well, those little people think that just because they're poor, they don't have to pay taxes or feed the military.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: "Little people"? Is that what you call poor people?

GOBERNATOR: Yes! Those little people think they're above the law. So it's our duty to punish them justly under our rule of law.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And how, precisely, do you do that?

GOBERNATOR: (*Greedily, sniffing, rubbing his belly*) So, barbeque or any kind of grilling at somebody's party, we just take it from them for our dinner.

(*Judge nods appropriately and should have said this to students during pre-trial opening remarks*) Or when they've sold homemade candy apples, shined shoes, or sold magazines downtown and they haven't paid their taxes, we take their profits. Those candy apples make a lot of money!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Incredulously*) How can you justify taking food and money from poor people—from shoe shiners and street vendors, for goodness' sake? Seems to me that's bullying and stealing!

GOBERNATOR: (*Dismissively*) Oh, please! Peasants are poor. If they have money in their pockets, we know they haven't paid us their fair share of taxes, so we take it—unless Zorr-oh appears. He always has a sarcastic greeting for us, such as, Wazzup? (*Acting cool, kind-of dancing in his seat*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So is it your testimony that Zorr-oh always appears to defend the poor against your soldiers?

GOBERNATOR: Absolutely!

Here's another example: Our guys all have a sweet tooth. The ladies won't give us any of their goodies, but they give Zorr-oh all he can eat—for free! They even

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

concocted a special sugar candy honoring him—Zorro Zweets! (*Showing Zorro Zweet*)

That’s why my men hate him. What’s he got that we don’t?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Looking admiringly at Zorr-oh*) Well, good looks and a buff bod for one—or for two! Smarts and skills for three or four!

GOVERNATOR: At any rate, my men confiscated all their Zorro Zweets. We hate to admit it, but they’re delicious. Zuper Zweet!

(*Holding up and showing the candy so the judge, jury, and audience can see it*) So we brought some for you and the jury, my judge.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! Gobernador is trying to bribe the judge and the jury!

JUDGE: Objection sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

Bribery is against the law, Gobernator. One more attempt like that, and I’ll hold you in contempt of court.

And please don’t call me your judge. I am nobody’s judge.

GOVERNATOR: Sorry, Your Honor. You probably expect bigger gifts—like other elected officials I know....

JUDGE: (*Interrupting witness*) (*Bangs gavel*) You are out of order, sir. One more disrespectful comment, and I’ll hold you in contempt of court and fine you \$500.

GOVERNATOR: (*Sarcastically, defiantly, rudely*) Well, if you’re going to act “all proper” like my grandmother, you should at least powder your nose!

JUDGE: (*Bangs gavel twice*) You were warned, sir. You are hereby held in contempt of court and directed to pay \$500. (*Bangs gavel*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: One more question: What did you say your full name was?

GOVERNATOR: (*Pronounced in English*) Élfeo Mentíroso.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: ¿Élfeo Mentíroso?

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

(Slowly, so students can understand) Here's a fun fact for you: Are you aware that when words in Spanish end in a vowel or in "n" or "s," as in your first and last names, the stress is on the second-to-the-last syllable, not the third-to-the-last, the way you are pronouncing your names?

GOBERNATOR: *(Sheepishly)* Yes.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Would you pronounce your full name correctly, and in Spanish, based on those rules?

GOBERNATOR: *(Even more sheepishly)* El-feo Mentiroso. *(Pronounced in Spanish, Ehl-feh-oh, Mehn-tee-rho-soh)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Exactly, El-feo Mentiroso. In English that would be "Ugly Liar." And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what his parents named him. What do you think his enemies call him?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: One more question: Can you give me one example of Zorr-oh starting a fight or fighting when it wasn't to defend himself or others?

GOBERNATOR: *(Thinking, then sheepishly)* No.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: No more questions.

JUDGE: You may step down.

(Witness returns to his seat at prosecutor's table.)

JUDGE: The prosecution may call your next witness.

PROSECUTOR: The prosecution calls Alana Mentiroso. *(Pronounced initially in English, Ah-lah-nah, Mehn-tee-roh-soh)*

(No one appears.)

JUDGE: The Court will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms or Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms to call the name "Alana Mentiroso" outside the courtroom.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OR DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: *(Holding the back door open and yelling into the hallway)* Alana Mentiroso! *(Pause)*

(Closes the door) Name was called, Your Honor. No response.

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

JUDGE: It seems your witness hasn't arrived, Counselor. The Court hereby issues a warrant for Señorita Mentíroso's arrest and orders the sergeant-at-arms and deputy sergeant-at-arms to execute it and not to return without her.

Counselor, please call your next witness.

(Sergeant-at-arms and deputy sergeant-at-arms exit the courtroom to execute the arrest warrant.)

PROSECUTOR: There is no other witness, Your Honor. When the witness arrives, may I call her out of order?

JUDGE: You may. *(Bangs gavel)*

PROSECUTOR: The prosecution rests.

JUDGE: The defense may call its first witness.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: The defense calls Zorr-oh.

(Witness takes the witness stand.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: *(Addressing Zorr-oh)* Please state your full name.

ZORR-OH: Zorr-oh.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Just "Zorr-oh"?

ZORR-OH: Just Zorr-oh, though I like to be called "Z," and I sign everything with my "Z!" *(Making a large Zorro-like "Z" backward in the air dramatically with his index finger, so the audience can see it.)*

PROSECUTOR: *(Rising)* Including his victims!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! Counselor is testifying! He is a lawyer, not a witness! He can't be both!

JUDGE: Objection sustained. *(Bangs gavel)*

One more outburst like that, Counselor, and I will hold you in contempt of court and fine you, too.

PROSECUTOR: My apologies, Your Honor.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Is there any significance to signing with a “Z”?

ZORR-OH: The sign of the “Z” is associated with “Zorro, the friend of the weak, and the poor, and the meek.” (*Quoting from Zorro’s theme song, preferably singing it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yf17G2vWTzU>*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Are you a Texan by birth?

ZORR-OH: No, in California—but I get here as fast as I could!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What do you do for a living?

ZORR-OH: I’m in law enforcement—sworn to protect victims with my life and will do so to my death.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Flirtatiously*) Are you the same Zorr-oh who stars with your black horse, Tornado, in movies, TV series, and comic books—sometimes portrayed by that hunk—(*Stretching her hand toward Zorr-oh, dreamily*) just like you—Antonio Banderas? (*Sighs and touches her heart*)

ZORR-OH: (*Smiling*) That Zorro lives in classic superhero story land. I live in this fractured story land and spell my name differently, Zorr-oh, with a hyphen in the middle and an “h” at the end.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Well, are you the same Zorr-oh honored in the theme song with the words, (*Preferably singing the lyrics, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RM58g34O-cA>*) “Out of the night, when the full moon is bright, comes the horseman known as Zorro. This bold renegade, carves a “Z” with his blade, a “Z” that stands for Zorro?” (*Both make a large Zorro-like “Z” backward in the air dramatically with their index fingers, so the audience can see them.*)

ZORR-OH: There are people who believe that I am.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: And are you the same Zorr-oh also honored in that theme song with the words, (*Preferably singing the lyrics, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RM58g34O-cA>*) “He is polite, but the wicked take flight, when they catch the sight of Zorro....(T)he fox so cunning and free, Zorro, Zorro, who makes the sign of the Z?” (*Quoting from Zorro’s theme song,*

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

though, if possible, singing it. Again making a large Zorro-like “Z” backward in the air dramatically with her index finger, so the audience can see it.)

ZORR-OH: The same people believe that I am.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OR DEPUTY SERGEANT AT ARMS: *(From the entrance opposite the judge’s bench)* Your Honor! We have the prosecution’s witness, Alana Mentíroso, in custody.

(Sergeant-at-arms and deputy sergeant-at-arms open the door, and Alana enters, looking mortified, crying, or on the verge of tears. She reacts appropriately throughout Zorro’s testimony.)

JUDGE: *(Addressing Alana)* We will hear from you after the defense rests, Ms. Mentíroso, including any defense for not being held in contempt of court. Please be seated in the witness area, close to the bailiff and deputy bailiff, so they can make sure you don’t leave.

(Bailiff and deputy bailiff escort Alana to witness area, to sit by Robin Hoodie. On the way, she exchanges nervous glances with Zorr-oh and with Gobernador Mentíroso. Robin stands to greet her, and they hug like friends, to the surprise of Gobernador Mentíroso.)

ALANA: Yes, Your Honor. I’m sorry I’m late. I didn’t want to come.

JUDGE: *(Addressing attorney for defense)* Please continue, Counselor.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Zorr-oh, have you ever assaulted anyone, either in isolation, or in combination with causing property damage and breaking and entering?

ZORR-OH: Never!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Is there anything you have done that could be described legitimately and truthfully as assault, property damage, or breaking and entering?

ZORR-OH: Nothing! Never! I fight only to defend others.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Well, Gobernador Mentíroso testified that you have “taken on dozens of his men...for decades and decades.”

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

ZORR-OH: (*Smiling*) That's true! Sometimes 30 or 40 at a time. Nothing I can't handle—at least not the way they fight—or “don't fight” might be a better way to say it! (*Laughing*)

Actually, Robin Hoodie says they fight like girls—but I say that's an insult to girls. My respect to the ladies! (*Tips his hat*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Aren't you just a bully who picks on defenseless soldiers?

ZORR-OH: (*Pleasantly sarcastic*) Defenseless soldiers? First, they're “supposed to be” trained fighters. Warriors!

(*Sincerely*) Second, I fight only in defense of the victims they bully all the time, mostly old people; scared men and women; and sweet, innocent children. They steal their food and their money. Sometimes they pick on them and insult them just for fun. Like most bullies, they get a kick out of being mean.

No gentleman would steal from old women, much less call them cockroaches and cackle while doing so. They're evil. Just evil.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Did you, in fact, blow up his arsenal of explosives?

ZORR-OH: I did, and proud of it. No one needs an arsenal of explosives unless they're up to no good. They were going to use them to kill defenseless people. I blew them up to save their lives.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: So that was an act of self-defense?

ZORR-OH: An act of public defense and protection of the people against a military bully who quashes the people's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Isn't it unconstitutional to imprison people for being too poor to pay taxes?

ZORR-OH: Exactly! And certainly illegal to behead them for it!

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Is that why you destroyed the Mentiroso Horca?

ZORR-OH: Double-Ditto Exactly! Gobernator Mentiroso didn't explain an horca is a guillotine, (*Pronounced in English, geeh-yo-teen*) and the prosecutor didn't ask him to. (*Disgusted*) He used it to behead poor delinquent taxpayers who couldn't

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

afford to pay his oppressive taxes. That's murder. I proudly destroyed it to save lives.

Somebody has to stand up to that bully.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Does it bother you that Gobernador considers you a bandido, (*Pronounced in Spanish, bahn-dee-doh*) a criminal?

ZORR-OH: Couldn't care less. However, to quote Homer Simpson, "Just because I don't care doesn't mean I don't understand."

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I have no more questions.

JUDGE: Does the prosecution wish to cross-examine?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, Your Honor.

Why do you dress like that?

ZORR-OH: Like what?

PROSECUTOR: Why do you always wear all-black, with black boots, black hat, and black cape?

ZORR-OH: (*Smiling, showing-off his clothes*) Oh, this is the official trademarked Zorr-oh attire. Like Nike.

PROSECUTOR: Never mind. Let's move on.

Where do you live?

ZORR-OH: With all due respect, as a law enforcement officer, I respectfully assert my rights to privacy and decline to state my address publicly.

PROSECUTOR: Gobernador testified that property and people were maimed with a "Z." That would be your work, correct, since you are the only "Z" in Texas?

ZORR-OH: Actually, I'm not. There is (*Extending hand toward Z*) a certain state senator from Laredo who also wears only black and signs with a "Z"!

ZORR-OH: But I admit, I'm the Z who gifts them a little "Z" as a reminder.

PROSECUTOR: As a reminder? Is there a message in that "Z"?

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

ZORR-OH: Yes. To quote Arnold Schwarzenegger in “The Terminator”: “I’ll be back!” (*Imitating Schwarzenegger*)

The funny thing is, that’s the only thing Mentiroso and I have in common: We love Arnold Schwarzenegger. That’s why he started calling himself “Gobernator” instead of “Gobernador.” (*Pronounced in Spanish, goh-behr-nah-dorh*)

PROSECUTOR: Oh, brother! Let’s move on.

How old are you?

ZORR-OH: (*Addressing the judge*) Do I have to answer that?

JUDGE: Yes, and you are under oath.

ZORR-OH: I’ll be 28 on Feb. 28.

PROSECUTOR: 28? 28? Then how can you have been fighting Gobernator and his soldiers for decades and decades?

ZORR-OH: I haven’t.

PROSECUTOR: Well, somebody has. Please explain.

ZORR-OH: (*Sighs*) When Mentiroso first arrested me a few years ago for failure to pay my taxes, I was waiting to face the horca—the guillotine—I had no skills. My cellmate was an old man who worked out and was in great shape.

He also was an incredible swordsman, a fabulous acrobat, accomplished horseman, and an expert in weaponry and martial arts.

The old man was the original Zorr-oh, who trained me. We escaped from prison together, got to his mansion in the mountains, and began my excruciating training.

When he decided I was ready, I put on his black clothes, hat, and mask and continued the Legacy of Zorr-oh!

PROSECUTOR: You escaped from prison? So you’re both fugitives from the law?

ZORR-OH: Here’s a very serious and important fun fact: In Texas and in the United States, it is unconstitutional to imprison anyone for being too poor to pay fines or taxes or to hold anyone without due process of law. We were both held

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

illegally, so, from our perspective, we escaped the criminals—the bullies—who kidnapped us. They’re the kidnappers. They’re the criminals.

PROSECUTOR: So why did both of you mercilessly harass and bully Gobernador Mentíroso?

ZORR-OH: *(Hesitating)* To begin with, el Gobernador is the bully and the harasser. *(Demonstrating by knocking on the top front of the witness stand with the knuckles of one hand)* His mother should have given him lots of knuckle sandwiches. Even a few knuckles to the head might have improved his personality.

He loves to harass me with annoying music.

PROSECUTOR: What annoying music?

ZORR-OH: I’ll show you. *(Singing part of the lyrics quoted here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jofNR_WkoCE)*

“What does the fox say?

“Ring-ding-ding-ding-dingeringeding
Gering-ding-ding-ding-dingeringeding
Gering-ding-ding-ding-dingeringeding
What the fox say?

“Wa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pow
Wa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pow
Wa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pow
What the fox say?

“Hatee-hatee-hatee-ho
Hatee-hatee-hatee-ho
Hatee-hatee-hatee-ho
What the fox say?

“Joff-tchoff-tchoff-tchoff-tchoffo-tchoffo-tchoff
Joff-tchoffo-tchoff-tchoffo-tchoffo-tchoff
Joff-tchoff-tchoff-tchoff-tchoffo-tchoffo-tchoff
What the fox say?

“Fraka-kaka-kaka-kaka-kow
Fraka-kaka-kaka-kaka-kow
Fraka-kaka-kaka-kaka-kow
What the fox say?

“A-hee-ahee ha-hee
A-hee-ahee ha-hee
A-hee-ahee ha-hee
What the fox say?

“A-oo-oo-oo-ooo
Woo-oo-oo-ooo
What does the fox say?”

I hate that stupid song. And it’s written in English, probably about an English fox, not in Spanish about a Mexican zorro like me.

PROSECUTOR: I agree. But isn’t it true that you harass him back with equally annoying music?

ZORR-OH: Uh-huh! I answer with (Singing, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFVi-j-yIr0>)

“Who let the dogs out? Woof, woof, woof, woof, woof!”

What’s wrong with that? ¡Son perros! (*Pronounced in Spanish, sohn, pehr-rohs*)

PROSECUTOR: So what’s your beef against Gobernador?

ZORR-OH: (*Addressing prosecutor*) I will tell you, reluctantly, only because I am under oath.

Twenty years ago the Gobernador and an army of 100 soldiers followed the original Zorr-oh to his house and captured him while he slept. He burned the original Zorr-oh’s house to the ground, killed his wife, and kidnapped his little girl. (*Alana reacts visibly, growing increasingly upset. Gobernador has his head down on the tabletop.*)

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

Zorr-oh swore revenge, but he grew old in prison. When he met me, we escaped our kidnappers so he could prepare me to follow in his footsteps. He also made me promise I would find and protect his daughter at the cost of my own life. That's why I was here. To keep that promise. But then I got arrested again, the same way the original Zorr-oh did. Fortune brought us together.

GOBERNADOR: *(Calls prosecutor over, vigorously shaking his head and using his hands, indicating the prosecutor should stop asking questions. They can improvise an argument as the prosecutor want so continue the questioning.)*

PROSECUTOR: *(Frustrated)* Reluctantly, Your Honor, no more questions.

JUDGE: *(Surprised; addressing Zorr-oh)* You may step down.

ZORRO: *(Relieved)* Thank you.

(Zorro repeats gesture of moving fingers across the front rim of his hat. Zorro theme music plays again.)

(Witness returns to the defense table.)

JUDGE: Please stop that music—although at least it's not, "What Does the Fox Say?" *(Bangs gavel)*

The defense may call its next witness.

ATTY FOR THE DEFENSE: The defense calls Robin Hoodie.

(Witness takes the stand.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: State your full name, please.

ROBIN: *(Acting cute, funny)* Robin McWoodie Tatoodie *(Rhyme with Hoodie)* Hoodie.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: What is your relationship with Zorr-oh?

ROBIN: *(Interacting nonverbally with Zorr-oh, such as by fist-bumping from afar)* He's my bro, and we always get together to play lotería *(Pronounced in Spanish, loh-tehr-ee-ah)* on Taco Tuesday. That's Mexican Bingo. We're also members of the International Justice League.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Who are some of the other members?

ROBIN: Soup R. Mann, BatMann, and Wunder Woman—to name a few. But Zorr-oh is my BFF.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: With so many superheroes, why do we need Zorr-oh?

ROBIN: I'm in charge of forest crimes. Others are in charge of metropolitan areas. Zorr-oh's in charge of the United States border with Mexico. He's the only superhero who's truly bilingual and bicultural—like many Texans.

He's special. As they say in the movies, "There must always, always be a Zorro." (*Quoting "The Mask of Zorro"*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Why are capes and masks so popular with superheroes?

ROBIN: Well, Zorr-oh was the original superhero. His costume made him look even more powerful than he already was, causing men to fear him and ladies to swoon. They called him Mr. Perfect!

(Laughing) They all think he's a real hunk! I think he's cool.

Other superheroes modeled themselves on his brand, cape and all. Actually, BatMann and I are the most like him.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Well, that's another fun fact, especially for fans of superheroes.

What do you and Zorr-oh have in common?

ROBIN: We both devote ourselves to protecting the poor and the downtrodden from greedy, corrupt, cowardly officials. They really are lying, greasy pigs.

We give back to the poor what the rich stole from them.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I know why you call them greedy and corrupt, but why "cowardly"?

ROBIN: Because they pick only on the young, and the old, and the poor—never on the rich or powerful. They also pick on the meek and the weak—never on the strong or the brave. You won't find them doing their mischief at the country club, especially since so many members legally carry concealed weapons or even "open

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

carry.” I call them fleas and ticks. They’d suck-out the very lifeblood of poor people, if they could.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Do you ever carve an “R” or an “RH” on property or on the soldiers you fight?

ROBIN: Never. But I have to admit, sometimes I carve a great big “Z” on them, just for fun and to confuse them! Then everyone thinks Zorr-oh was there! They think he’s everywhere! (*Laughing*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Have you ever heard of Zorr-oh starting a fight for fun, picking on the Gobernador, or in any way committing assault, property damage, or breaking and entering?

ROBIN: Never! He fights only in self-defense or to defend and protect others.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you. No more questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Does the prosecution wish to cross-examine?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, Your Honor.

Isn’t it true you’re called “Robin” because you’re always “robin’ the rich” to give to the poor?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! Counselor is being argumentative, and his/her question is irrelevant and disrespectful.

JUDGE: Sustained. (*Bangs gavel*)

Be respectful, Counselor.

PROSECUTOR: Robin Hoodie, have you ever worked side-by-side with Zorr-oh?

ROBIN: No.

PROSECUTOR: Then how do you know he’s never started a fight?

ROBIN: Because the International Justice League has a Code of Ethics. We only defend and protect, and he’s the chair of our Ethics Committee.

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

PROSECUTOR: But you admit that in the process of fighting others, Zorr-oh has carved his “Z” on them and on their property and sometimes entered their homes or offices without being invited?

ROBIN: How else could he do his job?

PROSECUTOR: Do you know his true identity?

ROBIN: *(Exclaiming)* Holy Cow! “No one has seen his face...but everyone...knows (his) mark.” *(From “The Mask of Zorro”)*

PROSECUTOR: Why does he have to carve his “Z”?

ROBIN: Simple. He doesn’t want the poor people to get blamed and possibly be sent to the horca for what he did.

PROSECUTOR: “Z” also stands for Zits, Zoinks, and Zygots, right?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honor! That is irrelevant and immaterial. Besides, I’ll bet no one in this courtroom knows what those words mean.

PROSECUTOR: With all due respect, Your Honor. “Zits” means pimples. Anyone who watched Scooby Doo as a child knows “Zoinks” means, “Oh, No!” or “Uh-oh!” And “Zygot” means stupid and immature. That’s what I think “Z” stands for! *(Making the “Z” with his/her finger as he/she says each word)* Zits! Zoinks! And Zygots!

JUDGE: With all due respect, Counselor. I don’t have a clue what you’re talking about. This is Texas. Speak English or Spanish!

Objection sustained! *(Bangs gavel)*

PROSECUTOR: *(Exasperated)* No further questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE: You may step down.

(Witness returns to designated seat.)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: We have no more witnesses, Your Honor. The defense rests.

JUDGE: Very well.

Does the prosecution wish to call Alana Mentíroso?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, Your Honor. The prosecution calls Alana Mentíroso.

(Witness takes the stand, carrying legal documents.)

JUDGE: Please raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

ALANA: *(Distressed)* I really don't want to. Only if I have to.

JUDGE: You do and you're now under oath, which means that lying in this courtroom is perjury. That's a crime punishable with prison time. That's not exactly a fun fact. You may proceed, Counselor.

PROSECUTOR: State your name, please.

ALANA: Alana.

PROSECUTOR: Your full name, please.

ALANA: *(Sobs; too distraught to answer)*

PROSECUTOR: *(Comfortingly)* That's OK. Just relax. We'll stipulate you are Alana Mentíroso, daughter of Gobernador Mentíroso. Is that correct?

ALANA: *(Upset)* It is not correct! Didn't you hear what Zorr-oh said?

PROSECUTOR: *(Shocked)* I don't understand. Please explain yourself.

ALANA: It's why I didn't want to come. I always wondered why I was as good with swords and horses as Zorr-oh, and only this morning did I find out why. It's also why he *(Pointing at Gobernador)* made you stop questioning Zorr-oh. I wish you had continued.

PROSECUTOR: *(Confused)* Again, I don't understand. Why?

ALANA: *(Upset)* After breakfast this morning I went to get some documents for today's testimony, and I found some hidden papers.

Here's the proof! It's all here! *(Slapping papers on the desktop, toward prosecutor)*

PROSECUTOR: *(Picking-up and looking at papers; shocked)* What is this?

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

ALANA: (*Distraught*) My life has been a lie—a lie! No wonder our last name is “Mentiroso!” That’s perfect.

Now I know the man I thought was my father, Gobernador Mentiroso, killed my mother and kidnapped me from my father when I was too young to remember exactly what happened. Now I do, especially after hearing Zorr-oh’s testimony!

(*Pauses dramatically*) I am the daughter of the original Zorr-oh!

(*All cast members react appropriately; audible gasps, murmuring, and shaking heads; Gobernador cradles his head. Obviously crying.*)

PROSECUTOR: That is unbelievable, unimaginable, unforgivable!

ALANA: Exactly.

PROSECUTOR: (*Confused. At a loss for words*) No, uh, no, pos, well, us...no more questions, Your Honor. Oh, my!

JUDGE: Does the defense wish to cross-examine?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: If I may just have a minute, Your Honor. (*Confers with Zorr-oh and seems to get her marching orders from him*)

JUDGE: That’s only fair.

(*Participants all interact, whispering in disbelief while defense attorney briefly confers with Zorr-oh.*)

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: (*Addressing Alana*) What is your relationship with the Gobernador?

ALANA: Well, I always thought he was my father, but now I know he is my kidnapper—a criminal, just like Zorr-oh said.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: But how would you describe your relationship with him—are you close, do you have a loving father-daughter relationship?

ALANA: He’s tried to buy my love with high fashion clothes and jewelry, but those things don’t matter to me. I’ve always wondered why we were so different, and why I was better at sword fighting and horsemanship, than he was. And why we disagreed so passionately about how he treated people, and now I know.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Please explain.

ALANA: I have vague memories of my real father teaching me sword fighting, horseback riding, and acrobatics when I was a tiny girl. I must have developed muscle memory at an early age. The skills of the original Zorr-oh are in my genes, in my DNA.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Please continue.

ALANA: I never approved of how the Gobernador treated the poor, and I tried to change his ways. But he was a know-it-all. When I met Zorr-oh, I realized the difference between their two perspectives, and I prefer Zorr-oh's.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: When and where did you meet Zorr-oh?

ALANA: When he was about to blow-up the Gobernador's arsenal. We fought with swords, and I trapped him. Anyway, I was about to call the soldiers to arrest him, but he explained why he was there and that the Gobernador was planning to use the explosives and weapons to trap and kill poor people. I was horrified.

Instead of turning him in, I helped him, though I felt awful about betraying the man I then thought was my father. I wish I didn't know now what I didn't know then.

Now I know my ancestry and my feelings. Blood is thicker than water.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I agree.

What is your relationship with Zorr-oh?

ALANA: *(Looking adoringly at Zorro, as he returns the look)* We fell in love. We knew this was dangerous and couldn't figure out how to be together more often than secretly in the dark. Robin Hoodie stood guard for us whenever we did. *(Gobernador acts shocked; Robin clasps his hands high and shakes them proudly. Zorr-oh expresses gratitude nonverbally.)*

I wanted to get married, but he always held back. I would sing to him in Spanish but I'll give you the gist of it in English: *(Singing stanza from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwGuPJQPBE0>)*

"A million times I've asked you, And then, I ask you over again;
You only answer

Perhaps, perhaps, perhaps

*(Spanish version of “Quizas, Quizas, Quizas” is at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXOUiKfWt_4)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: *(Emotionally)* So romantic! But I’m sorry you’ve had to go through this shock.

ALANA: I’m in shock, but at least now I understand.

Having heard Zorr-oh testify, I only wonder why he hadn’t told me everything before.

And I’m dying to see my father, the original Zorr-oh. I’m sure he’ll bless our marriage. My fake father—my kidnapper—never would have.

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: From what you know about the star witness, el Gobernator, and the defendant, Zorr-oh, in this case, do you believe that Zorr-oh ever committed assault, property damage, or breaking and entering?

ALANA: Absolutely not. Everything he did, he did while risking his life against Gobernator’s equally corrupt troops to protect and defend the poor. My so-called father got what he asked for. “He made his bed; let him lie on it.”

Zorr-oh is indeed a superhero for our people. Who needs Soup R. Mann or BatMann, when we have him? He is innocent, and the Gobernator is guilty.

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honor! The witness is making a legal conclusion, and only the jury can determine guilt.

JUDGE: The witness was simply being responsive. She can testify as to her opinion.

Objection overruled. *(Bangs gavel)*

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: I have no more questions.

JUDGE: You are excused, señorita. And, having heard your explanation for your failure to respond timely to the subpoena, you will not be charged with contempt of court or failure to appear.

ALANA: Thank you, Your Honor.

JUDGE: We will now hear closing arguments. Is the prosecutor ready?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury. What a drama! What. A. Drama!

Do not, however, let the dramatic turn of events. “Who is whose father” has nothing to do with the charges at hand. You heard Zorr-oh admit, and Robin Hoodie confirm, that he fought dozens of soldiers and el Gobernador at a time, broke-into and destroyed their property, and sometimes maimed their bodies with the mark of the “Z.” That is assault and property damage—crimes he couldn’t commit without also breaking and entering.

Even worse, Zorr-oh voluntarily admitted he escaped from prison. That, too, is against the law! He and the original Zorro are fugitives from prison and should be arrested immediately. It’s time to go fox-hunting! That’s why I wore my English fox-hunting suit! *(Say this last sentence only if it’s appropriate, based on prosecutor’s attire.)*

The ends should not justify the means. Defending and protecting the poor or anyone else does not justify breaking the law in the process.

You and I are not above the law, and neither is Zorr-oh!

Shakespeare wrote, “A rose by any other name is still a rose.” So is a criminal, a criminal—no matter what you call him. In this case, however, we have a fox, English for Zorro, who acts like a skunk, and whose actions smell like a skunk.

Zorr-oh has committed assault, property damage, and breaking and entering. He is a criminal—a bandit, *(Pronounced in Spanish, bahn-dee-doh)* pure and simple. It is your duty to find Zorro, who proudly signs his work with a “Z,” a Zeta, guilty of all charges.

Thank you.

JUDGE: Counsel for the defense?

ATTY FOR DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honor.

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, frankly, I don't understand how the prosecutor had the audacity to even make a closing statement. Given what we have just seen and heard, he/she should slither out, oozing under the door of this courtroom, with his/her tail between his/her feet. He/she should immediately have dropped charges against Zorr-oh and instead pressed charges against Gobernator El-feo Mentiroso for corruption, kidnapping, and murder by beheading. He's the criminal, not Zorr-oh!

The charges against Zorr-oh are as outrageous as they are ridiculous. He is a superhero hunk who lives his life modestly and courageously in the service of others. In fact, he risks his life to protect and defend the weak, the poor, and the meek from despicable bullies like el Gobernator and his soldiers.

He doesn't run and hide, even when outnumbered.

Never, ever, has he picked a fight or started one. But when someone else did, he was there to protect and defend the victim. How can you possibly punish that?

Besides, if you find Zorr-oh guilty, you will set a precedent for convicting Soup R. Mann, Wunder Woman, Robin Hoodie, and all the members of the International Justice League. And where would our world be without them? The villains would have a field day, and the victims would be victimized even more severely.

If these crooked soldiers and Gobernator, their leader, were stealing from you, attacking you, or trying to kill you, wouldn't you want him to fight for your defense? Or would you want him to say, oh, no, I better not protect and defend these victims, or I'll be charged with a crime?

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I truly don't see how you can do anything else but find Zorr-oh not guilty of assault, not guilty of property damage, and not guilty of breaking and entering. Then you can go after the real skunk in this mock trial—Gobernator Elfeo Mentiroso!

Thank you.

JUDGE: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you have heard the evidence in this case. Now it is up to you to decide if Zorr-oh is guilty of any or all of these charges. Please use your 10 minutes to consider all of the evidence you heard. Bailiff, please escort the jury to the jury room to consider the verdict.

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

All rise for the jury. *(Everyone rises as the jury leaves.)*

(Bailiff and deputy bailiff lead the jury to the jury room to vote on the verdict. An attorney should be with them in the jury room to answer any questions. Upon arriving at a consensus, they return to the courtroom to announce the verdict.)

(During the 10 minutes allowed for the jury to deliberate, the judge convenes the rest of the students as a Court of Public Opinion. If there is time afterward, he engages them in a question-and-answer session.)

JUDGE: Please be seated.

After we hear the verdict and the trial is adjourned, our elected officials and honor guests will be invited to join the groups of students who will be photographed with the cast at the bench.

First, however, it is my pleasure to convene the students as a Court of Public Opinion. *(Bangs gavel)*

The purpose of our Court of Public Opinion is to ask how you, the public, represented by students here today, believe Zorr-oh is guilty or not guilty.

So I will ask you the same questions that the jury will answer. We will have a voice vote. If I can't tell how the majority feels, then we will have a standing vote. Are you ready?

First, remember that "assault" means causing someone bodily harm. If you agree that Zorr-oh is guilty of assault, say, "Yes!" *(Pause)*

If you disagree, say, "No!" *(Pause)*

The (Yeses) (Nos) prevail. *(Bangs gavel)*

(If outcome isn't clear from voice vote, ask for the "yes" voters to stand, have staffers ready to count them, and ask them to be seated. Then ask the "no" voters to stand, have staffers count them, and ask them to be seated. Announce results.)

Second, "property damage" means deliberately damaging someone's property. If you agree that Zorr-oh is guilty of property damage, say, "Yes!" *(Pause)*

If you disagree, say, "No!" *(Pause)*

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

The (Yeses) (Nos) prevail. *(Bangs gavel)*

(If outcome isn't clear from voice vote, ask for the "yes" voters to stand, have staffers ready to count them, and ask them to be seated. Then ask the "no" voters to stand, have staffers count them, and ask them to be seated. Announce results.)

Third, "breaking and entering" means entering someone's home or property by force to steal or commit another wrongdoing. If you agree that Zorr-oh is guilty of breaking and entering, say, "Yes!" *(Pause)*

If you disagree, say, "No!" *(Pause)*

The (Yeses) (Nos) prevail. *(Bangs gavel)*

(If outcome isn't clear from voice vote, ask for the "yes" voters to stand, have staffers ready to count them, and ask them to be seated. Then ask the "no" voters to stand, have staffers count them, and ask them to be seated. Announce results.)

So this Court of Public Opinion finds that Zorr-oh is guilty of _____ charges, namely, _____; and not guilty of _____ charges, namely, _____ . Now let's see why the 12 jurors find.

(If jurors haven't returned, engage in Q&A, as follows.)

While we wait for them, we have time for a question or two. Who has a question?

(Q&A with students. Be sure to repeat each student's question before answering it. Keep answers short to allow more students to ask questions.)

(Staff member should hand the judge a note that the jury has reached a verdict.)

(Bailiff and deputy bailiff enter, interrupting the proceedings, if necessary.)

BAILIFF OR DEPUTY BAILIFF: Your Honor, the jury has reached a verdict.

JUDGE: All rise for the jury. (Everyone in the courtroom rises as the jury returns to jury box.)

(Jurors enter and return to the jury box.)

JUDGE: Ms./Mr. Foreperson, have you reached a verdict?

JURY FOREPERSON: Yes, Your Honor, we have.

JUDGE: The defendant and his attorney will please rise.

(Zorr-oh and defense attorney stand.)

MS./MR. FOREPERSON: We find the defendant, Zorr-oh, _____ of the charge of assault, _____ of the charge of property damage, and _____ of the charge of breaking and entering.

(IF NOT GUILTY:)

JUDGE: The jury has spoken, and the defendant has been found not guilty.

The defendant and his attorney may be seated.

(Zorr-oh and defense attorney sit.)

Thank you, members of the jury, for listening carefully and making this important decision.

(IF GUILTY:)

JUDGE: The jury has spoken, and the defendant has been found guilty.

Zorr-oh, I sentence you to _____ hours of community service. Your punishment shall be to establish a bilingual, bicultural Anti-Bullying Program. You will reach out to bullies and show them the error of their ways so they will stop victimizing others. You also will work with victims and show them how to defend themselves against bullies while building-up their self-esteem. Of course, you are free to share your skills in acrobatics, horsemanship, and skills in weaponry and martial arts with them—so long as you do it appropriately, wisely, and responsibly.

The defendant and his attorney may be seated.

(Zorr-oh and defense attorney sit.)

(Star witness and defendant react appropriately, based on the jury's verdict. Judge may make an appropriate statement to the defendant, especially if he/she is found

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

guilty. If he/she is found guilty of one charge, but not of another, the judge must respond accordingly.)

Thank you, members of the jury, for listening carefully and making this important decision.

ALANA: Your Honor, may I be heard?

JUDGE: *(Surprised)* You may.

ALANA: Zorro has done so much for so many, and

(IF GUILTY) to comfort him at this time, may I ask a friend to sing his favorite song?

(IF NOT GUILTY) to celebrate his being found not guilty, may I ask a friend to sing his favorite song?

JUDGE: Well, this is highly unusual, but I don't hear an objection.

(Prosecutor shakes his/her head.) I'll allow it.

(Singer emerges from designated seat in audience.)

SINGER: (SINGS UP TO 60 SECONDS FROM THIS EXCERPT FROM "JALISCO NO TE RAJES" OR AGREED UPON ALTERNATIVE.)

"Ay Jalisco, Jalisco, Jalisco, Jalisco
Tú tienes tu novia que es Guadalajara

"Muchacha bonita, la perla más rara
De Jalisco es mi Guadalajara

"Y me gusta escuchar los mariachis
Cantar con el alma sus lindas canciones
Oír como suenan esos guitarrones
Y echar ~~un tequila~~ (una risa) con los valentones

“¡Ay, Jalisco no te rajes!
Me sale del alma gritar con calor
Abrir todo el pecho pa' echar este grito
¡Qué lindo es Jalisco, palabra de honor!

“Pa' mujeres, Jalisco primero
Lo mismo en Los Altos que allá en La Cañada
Mujeres muy lindas, rechulas de cara
Así son las hembras en Guadalajara

“¡Ay, Jalisco no te rajes!
Me sale del alma gritar con calor
Abrir todo el pecho pa' echar este grito:
¡Qué lindo es Jalisco, palabra de honor!
¡Qué lindo es Jalisco, palabra de honor”

JUDGE: Wow! Let's thank (INSERT NAME AND IDENTIFICATION) for an outstanding tribute to Zorr-oh!

Students, thank you and your teachers for being with us today. We hope you have enjoyed this mock trial as much as you have learned from it.

We are especially grateful to the director of mock trial, (INSERT NAME).

I know you enjoyed the outstanding performances of (INSERT CHARACTERS AND THE NAMES OF ACTORS WHO PORTRAYED THEM.)

And we are grateful to the author of the mock trial script and of your handbook, Senator Judith Zaffirini.

JUDGE: Gobernator Elfeo Mentiroso, Zorr-oh, and all the cast will be available to be photographed with you. The elected officials and honor guests who are here also are invited to join us.

Students, we hope you enjoyed seeing justice in action in today's Access to Justice: Class in the Courtroom. You saw for yourselves the importance of obeying the law and what can happen when you do not obey the law.

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

Please come back to see your (INSERT NAME OF COURT) in action, and tell your parents and family members that they are welcomed too.

This court is adjourned. *(Bangs gavel)*

(Judge rises and joins cast, students, and elected officials for photos.)

DRAFT

TJC. Draft Adapted 01b

CAUSE NUMBER 2018-0427-L2

GOVERNATOR § (INSERT NAME OF COURT)
§
VERSUS §
§
ZORR-OH § (INSERT NAME OF COUNTY), TEXAS

DEFINITIONS

Assault means causing someone bodily harm.

Property damage means deliberately damaging someone's property.

Breaking and entering means entering someone's home or property without permission and by force to commit burglary or another evil.

VERDICT

We, the jury, find the defendant, Zorr-oh, not guilty _____ or guilty _____ of the offense of **assault**.

We, the jury, find the defendant, Zorr-oh, not guilty _____ or guilty _____ of the offense of **property damage**.

We, the jury, find the defendant, Zorr-oh, not guilty _____ or guilty _____ of the offense of **breaking and entering**.

SIGNED on the _____ day of _____ 2019.

FOREPERSON