

ACTORS' NOTES

Witness Shawn Fergus - Jeffries Case - Part II

Once you showed promise. But you developed a drug problem and eventually sank to selling your body to support your habit. Once in a while you'd get arrested. Sometimes they'd take you to jail and prosecute you, sometimes they'd just shake you down for cash. Since 1998 (see rap sheet), you've been paying them off and they haven't been arresting you. They are in a position to ruin your career.

Even so, when the defense investigator came around and told you that Robinson Jeffries had been charged with raping Carla Bridges, you gave him a written statement about what you had witnessed that night. What you said in the written statement was the truth.

Last November 9, you got arrested by a trick who turned out to be a cop (Officer Poser). When you offered him the usual fifty bucks, he threatened to charge you with bribery, and took you to the 18th District Station. Once you got there, you were turned over to the State's Attorney's investigator. "Those drugs must be getting the better of you, you're losing your mind" they said, and showed you a copy of the signed statement you gave the defense investigator. After an hour of police logic, you saw the light and agreed that what really happened was what the investigator told you happened.

EXERCISE A

Here you will first perform the police version of Shawn's direct testimony (see Shawn Fergus direct testimony script). Then the defense is going to cross examine you. The defense attorney will then hit you with the fact that you gave a contrary written statement to the defense investigator. You'll have to admit you gave that statement. You signed it, after all. But it must be your position that it wasn't true. Your career is riding on your testimony.

EXERCISE B

The defense attorney will cross-examine you on your convictions (study your rap sheet) and on your current profession. If they ask you about drugs, minimize your habit. The defense does not know any details at all about what went down between you and the prosecutor's investigator on November 9, but they may guess and try to insinuate. Resist them. Your career is at stake.