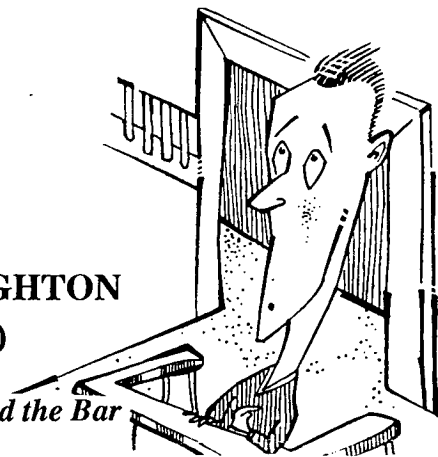


LEGAL SPEAK

(DEDICATED TO MR JUSTICE STAUGHTON WITH THE *UTMOST* RESPECT)

A Punch-eye view of communications between Staughton J. and the Bar (*vide Bar News, Summer, 1988*).



- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Ex parte. | 1. Slightly hung over. | 17. It is with a heavy heart. | 17. I only accepted this job because sentencing people is fun. |
| 2. I hesitate to interrupt my learned friend. | 2. I do so with unmitigated delight and no hesitation whatsoever. I hope it will put him off his stride. | 18. May it please your Lordship. | 18. I trust you are in a good mood, as I have not read my brief. |
| 3. Beyond reasonable doubt. | 3. Whoever heard of a policeman lying? | 19. Suspended sentence. | 19. Not what I would like it to mean. |
| 4. A Puisne Judge. | 4. A Judge who lets rapists off with a caution. | 20. I submit ≠ I give in, but... | 20. I shall go on and on until by sheer erosion I win the day. |
| 5. My client, who is a single man. | 5. The poor bugger has but months to live. | 21. Polenta non fit injuria. | 21. Pasta is good for you. |
| 6. My Lord, might the witness be seated? | 6. He comes of a good family. | 22. Qui s'excuse s'accuse. | 22. It is an offence to do certain things in certain places. |
| 7. The crime of which you stand convicted is much too prevalent. I intend to make an example of you. | 7. My own house was done last week. I lost my golf clubs, the Magimix, everything. | 23. Plausible though the accused is... | 23. Even you feather-brained, simple-minded, empty-headed gits on the jury can surely read him like a book. |
| 8. Contra preferentum. | 8. There is a lot in what President Reagan says. | 24. I hear what you say. | 24. Sod off. |
| 9. My client, who is a man of unblemished character. | 9. My client whom the fuzz have been after for years, but who, until now, has always been just too smart for them. | 25. If I am wrong in law, Mr Scott-Hopkins, then you have a remedy elsewhere. | 25. If your client has surplus funds and wishes to throw good money after bad he can always appeal. He will lose, of course. We Judges stick together. |
| 10. I do not know whether your Lordship would be prepared to indicate whether, in the event of a plea of guilty, your Lordship would be prepared to consider the possibility of a non-custodial sentence? | 10. Yes – then I can cut along to the Test match/the Derby/have my hair shampooed – it's beginning to tickle under my wig/Cynthia Payne's party/lunch at the Garrick. No – they will give me another case to try when I wrap this one up, so why rush things? | 26. I must advise you, members of the jury, that you should not hold it against the accused that... | 26. For the eleventh time, this inadmissible evidence conclusively proves him guilty. |
| 11. Res Ipsa Loquitur. | 11. Ray has decided to conduct his own defence. | 27. Expert Witness. | 27. A second-rate accountant/doctor/marine biologist/etc who, being unable to earn a living following his vocation, is driven by necessity to hire himself out as a professional perjurer. |
| 12. A hung jury. | 12. A jury which includes at least three friends of the accused. | 28. As your Lordship pleases. | 28. If we are on opposite sides of the net at the Bench v. Bar tennis match I suggest you wear a box. |
| 13. Liquidated Damages. | 13. A case of Latour '61 sent round to the Judge's Lodgings in a plain wrapper may well tip the balance in favour of the accused. | 29. My Lord, perhaps I might take instructions on that point? | 29. Perhaps I might have five minutes alone with the accused so that we can cobble together another skein of wool to pull over the eyes of the jury. |
| 14. Volenti non fit injuria. | 14. Confidential treatment is available. | 30. De Minimis non curat lex. | 30. The Irish (i.e. the Little People) have scant respect for the law. |
| 15. I put it to you. | 15. I am a bully by nature. | 31. Mr Scott-Hopkins, could you assist me as to the meaning of the expression "belt up"? | 31. Why not my Lord? Why not indeed? |
| 16. Let me put it to you once more. | 16. I shall go on until you burst into tears. | | |

(Reproduced by permission of Punch).