

Mock Trial Samples – “The Good, The Bad & The Ugly” – Indian King Harsha is questioned by an opposing attorney

*****Scenario #1 : A Good Attorney Questions a Bad Witness**

Good Attorney: “Mr. Harsha, isn’t it true that you started a war in order to achieve the goal of rebuilding an empire in India... and furthermore, that you FAILED in this goal to reunite your intended empire?”

Bad Witness: “Well, yes, but....”

GA: Objection your honor, I asked a yes or no question. Mr Harsha, can you please follow the simple instructions of the courtroom and answer the question with either a YES or NO?—that won’t be too complicated for you will it?”

BW: Ok, YES I started a war to try to reunite an empire in India

GA: “And can you tell me the names of the cities that you attacked in this needless war?”

BW: “Ummmm, no... I forget.... I’m pretty sure it was in India though....”

GA: “So... you started a pointless war where thousands died, and you can’t even tell us who you fought against. HOW DARE YOU SIR!! We are here to determine the fate of a man unfairly accused of terrible crimes that could impact not only his life, but also his friends, family & entire nation. Yet YOU sit here and REFUSE to answer even the SIMPLEST questions about your OWN WAR. I would like the jury to note that this witness is either not taking this seriously, or is too simple minded to explain the most basic details of his own life. In either case, I would like the jury to disregard anything that this selfish, uniformed, failure of a king has to say.”

****Note that during this the other attorney would probably object on the grounds of badgering the witness**

*****Scenario #2: A Bad Attorney Questions a Bad Witness**

Bad Attorney: “Mr. Harsha, isn’t it true that you started a war in order to achieve the goal of rebuilding an empire in India?””

Bad Witness: “Ummmm, yeah”

BA: “And can you tell me the names of the cities that you attacked in this war?” (at this point the bad attorney is expecting the witness to have done his work and answer the question correctly)

BW: “Ummmm, no... I forget.... I’m pretty sure it was in India though....”

BA: “Ummmm, (looks around, confused b/c she planned on this question being easily answered by the witness) Ummmm, well I think you attacked the neighboring states of Bengal & Ganjam.... Ummmm didn’t you?”

BW: “Yeah sure, whatever.”

BA: “No further questions”

*****Scenario #3: A Bad Attorney Questions a Good Witness**

Bad Attorney: “Mr. Harsha, isn’t it true that you started a war in order to achieve the goal of rebuilding an empire in India?”

Good Witness: “Yes I did. I was one of the only remaining Buddhist kings in a land that was teetering on the edge of chaos. As we have all learned from the lessons of history, after the fall of a great empire like the Gupta, societies experience a time of chaos, usually followed by a time of decentralized government. Furthermore, the major weakness of a decentralized system is that it will eventually be conquered by invaders. So, to answer your question... YES... I, Harsha, lord of Northern India and king of Thanesar started a series of wars so that I could SAVE my nation from defeat.”

BA: "Ummmm... could you tell me who you attacked in these pointless wars?"

GW: "Were you busy daydreaming during my previous answer – the wars were NOT pointless. Maybe if you spent a day on an actual battlefield and held the life of a dying man in your hands, then you would have more appreciation for what I did... but I am sure you were too busy getting your law degree from some internet clown college. Anyhow – I attacked Bengal & Ganjam in order to bring stability, safety and glory back to my land" (during this answer, a Good Attorney would have objected b/c the witnesses was adding too much to her answer)

BA: "Ummmm, well, weren't you also criticized by many because you didn't support women's rights and were a major alcoholic?"

GW: "I don't see what my personal life has to do with anything you just asked, so I refuse to answer, other than to say that compared to most men of MY TIME PERIOD, I was very accepting of all people and I was working hard to make the world a better place, unlike the accused king who wasted the tax dollars of his citizens and persecuted people based on their religion." (Once again, a good attorney would have objected during this response and asked the judge to force the witness to answer the question"

BA: "Ummm....No further questions"