

Court Transcript (23rd January, 2018)
State v. Jonathan Crane

Opening Statements

Prosecutor:

Good morning, my name is Ted Carson, and I am the prosecutor in this case. It is my pleasure to represent the State. On December 27th, 2017, the defendant, in this case, trespassed my client's property and attempted to beat my client to death. This, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, is what you would call an open-and-shut case. We have multiple witnesses who sighted the defendant during the crime. We have the weapon, a crowbar, with the defendant's fingerprints on it and my client's blood. The Defendant, with full mental faculties and criminal intent tried to kill my client. There is no doubt about it. The defense will try to convince you otherwise. They will tell you how he is an upstanding member of the society, who could not have voluntarily resorted to such violence. They will claim that he is a meek pacifist, who in the heat of the moment attacked my client and was not fully in control of his actions. Make no mistake though, the person sitting before your eyes is more than capable. He is someone who is inherently inclined towards violence. This is something that we will show you during the course of the trial and when all is said and done there will be no reasonable doubt in anyone's mind that Mr. Jonathan Crane, voluntarily and consciously with premeditation tried to kill my client to the best of his power. At the conclusion of the case, we will ask for a verdict of guilty.

Defense:

Good morning, my name is Sal Maroni, and it is my pleasure to represent Mr. Crane in this very important case. The defendant stands here falsely accused of attempted murder, a very serious crime. A crime of which my client is innocent of. And that is precisely what makes this case so important. The State is going to try to take away your attention from the important details of the case. They will tell you this was a crime of passion. Well I'm here to tell you that the only

crime being committed here is the trial of an innocent man. A respectable person's honor and dignity being dragged through the mud. That's the only thing criminal about this whole affair. We will present people to you during the course of the trial. People who knew Mr. Crane well. They will tell you in great detail what kind of a person he was. And by the end, you will be able to decide, without any doubt, that the defendant was not guilty of the crime he is being accused of, that is, attempted murder. What he is guilty of is having a weak mind that was influenced by Mr. Page who provoked him and put him in a state of mind where he didn't know what he was doing. At the conclusion of the case, I assure you that you will concur with me that this was a textbook case of temporary insanity.

Witness (Defense)

Sal Maroni: Judge, we'll like to call Mrs. Cassie O'Malley to the stand.

Ted Carson: Objection. She's a biased witness your honor and has nothing to add to the case.

Sal Maroni: That's not true! She can help the jury understand what kind of a person Jonathan was, which in turn will be extremely important to help them decide the result of this case.

Judge: Objection overruled. Witness can take the stand.

Sal Maroni: Thank you your honor.

Sal Maroni: Hello Cassie. Can you please tell for the record, what is your relationship to the defendant?

Cassie: Well, yeah. I'm his wife.

Sal Maroni: So Cassie, as you know your husband Jonathan is being tried for attempted murder. Do you have any thoughts on that?

Cassie: I have thoughts on this alright. There's no way he attacked him. Jonathan is the gentlest and most kind hearted person I know. He couldn't even hurt a fly. If he did what you're saying he did, he was most definitely not in his senses.

Sal Maroni: Hmm. So do you mean to say they are lying? You do know that there's a lot of people who saw him do exactly what is being claimed.

Cassie: I really don't know what to say to that. I mean what you're describing is most definitely not the Jonathan I know. I know he went there to meet that Lloyd guy. But that was because he was concerned. About all the inmates disappearing from Arkham. And the rumors floating around about how Ace Chemicals was involved. But he went there just to talk. I don't know what happened. How did he end up doing what he did.

Sal Maroni: Can you provide us with any reasonable explanation?

Cassie: Well I know that Jonathan was pretty weak minded. He got angry pretty fast. What I feel happened is that this Lloyd manipulated him into hitting him. That's the only way I see this happening.

Sal Maroni: Thank you Cassie. That's all your honor.

Cross Question

Ted Carson: So Cassie, tell me this if Jonathan was such a "gentle kind hearted person", why do so many of your neighbors claim that domestic violence was an everyday thing in your house. And they even had to call the police quite a few times.

Cassie: I don't know what you're talking about!

Ted Carson: So you mean to say that the neighbors are lying?

Cassie: No. It's just that they were just misunderstandings. Nothing more. You are mistaken.

Ted Carson: Sure. If you say so. That's all your honor.

Sal Maroni: Judge, we'll like to call Mr. Basil Day to the stand.

Ted Carson: Objection. He's a biased witness your honor and once again has nothing to add to the case.

Sal Maroni: It's the same argument your honor! He can help the jury understand what kind of a person Jonathan was, which in turn will be extremely important to help them decide the result of this case.

Judge: Objection overruled. Witness can take the stand.

Sal Maroni: Thank you your honor.

Sal Maroni: Hello Mr. Basil. Can you please tell for the record, what is your relationship to the defendant?

Basil: Hey, I'm Basil Day. And Jonathan and I are best buds.

Sal Maroni: So Basil, as you know Jonathan is being tried for attempted murder. Do you have any thoughts on that?

Basil: Hell yeah I do. There's no way he did it. Jonathan here is a benign motherfucker. I can't even imagine him hitting someone. Much less beating someone to death!

Sal Maroni: But he did do. Pretty much that.

Basil: I don't know man. I mean he was pissed with the company for sure. What with the rumors going around how they were conducting inhuman experiments to make some sort of a wonder drug. And on people who had been his buddies! But going full blown bananas on this Lloyd person. I don't believe that.

Sal Maroni: Thank you Basil. That's all your honor.

Cross Question

Ted Carson: Basil. On 27th December, 2017 were you with Jonathan when he went to meet Mr. Lloyd Page?

Basil: No. Why?

Ted Carson: Then can you with 100% certainty say that Jonathan didn't go there with full intention of killing Lloyd?

Basil: Well I mean I can't possibly be 100% sure. But c'mon man I know what kind of a man he is.

Ted Carson: Just answer the question. Yes, or No.

Basil: No.

Ted Carson: That's all your honor.

Witness (Prosecution)

Ted Carson: Judge, we'll like to call Ms. Pamela Isley to the stand.

Sal Maroni: Objection. She's nowhere on the witness list.

Ted Carson: She was found only yesterday. So she couldn't be added. But Judge, she's a key witness and her testimony is pivotal to the case.

Judge: Mr. Ted Carson, I don't like such dramatic theatrics in my courtroom. So tread carefully. I'll allow the witness but the objection of the defense is sustained.

Ted Carson: Thank you, your Honor.

Ted Carson: Hello Ms. Pamela. Will you please introduce yourself for the jury?

Pamela: Yeah sure. Hey. I'm Pamela Isley. I am a student.

Ted Carson: And?

Pamela: And I also work part time as an escort.

Ted Carson: And what does your work entail?

Pamela: Well we're supposed to give company to people. It's as simple as that. We fulfill any and all demands of our clients. And get paid in return.

Ted Carson: Okay. And do you recognize the defendant?

Pamela: Yes.

Ted Carson: In what capacity did you know him?

Pamela: Well, he was a regular customer.

Ted Carson: That's it. Anything else you want to tell us about him?

Pamela: Well. He was not particularly wanted. All the other girls avoided him. But he paid good money. And I needed the money. Why else would I be in this line of work otherwise? So I was the one who attended to him most often.

Ted Carson: Hmm. All the other girls avoided him. Why is that? Can you elaborate.

Pamela: Well there is not much to tell. He was what we call on the street a beater. He enjoyed hitting us. It's not particularly uncommon for men who come to us to have weird fetishes. But this is the worst of all. Beaters derive pleasure from hitting the girls during sex.

Jonathan Crane: You bitch! And Carson, fuck you for bringing her here. You'll pay for this. That's for sure.

Judge: Mr. Carson! Get your client under control! I'm warning you, or I'm suspending this case till further notice!

Sal Maroni: Yes, your Honor. Also, I would like to object to this whole line of questioning. She's giving out terms like "beaters" as if she's an expert in psychology!

Judge: Objection sustained. Please continue Ms. Isley. But be careful. Only testify to facts. Nothing more. Nothing less.

Pamela: Yes, your Honor. So as I was saying, the most dangerous about these sickos is that they get carried away very easily. I myself have experienced this on multiple occasions, he deliberately ignored the safe word and continue to hit me. One time when he was especially frustrated. I even suffered broken bones.

Ted Carson: Then why go back? Why keep doing this?

Pamela: As I said, these sickos give the most money. And I need money.

Ted Carson: That's all your honor. The prosecution rests.

Cross Question

Sal Maroni: So Ms. Isley, you yourself said in your testimony, that you need money. And you'll do anything to get money. Then tell me this. How can we trust a single word that comes out of your mouth?

Ted Carson: Objection!

Judge: Overruled.

Sal Maroni: Answer my question Ms. Isley.

Pamela: I don't know what to tell you. All I can tell you is that I would never lie. Not about something like this.

Sal Maroni: So you accept that you do lie.

Pamela: No. That's not what I meant.

Sal Maroni: That's alright. We understand exactly what you meant.

Ted Carson: Objection!

Judge: Overruled. I am warning you Mr. Carson. I don't appreciate lawyers jumping again and again in my courtroom without any reason.

Ted Carson: But your honor...

Judge: One more word and you will be charged with contempt of court. So please sit down and let's try to get through this trial as smoothly as possible. Do you have anything else to ask?

Sal Maroni: No your honor. The defense rests.

Judge: Okay then. The witness is excused. We will reconvene after lunch to hear closing arguments.

Closing Arguments

Defense:

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury. At the beginning of this case, I made a promise to you. The promise was to show you beyond reasonable doubt that my client is not guilty of what he is being accused of. This was temporary insanity. Simple as that. My client went to talk to Mr. Page. To confront him about the shady dealing of his company. But he would have none of that. He didn't just deny it all, he even went to the length of accusing my client of being delusional. I would like to put stress on the fact that the Mr. Page was the person who first laid his hands on my client. Not the other way around. This was too much for my client. As I said in the beginning of the case, my client's only mistake was having a weak mind. He was easily influenced and lost momentarily lost control of his mind. And this lapse in his senses is what caused him to involuntarily attack. Was this a mistake on his part? Most definitely. Was this a crime? No. Not in any sense of the word. His family and friends testified on stand that he was a nice person. Who never resorted to violence. In the words of his own wife, someone who for sure know him better than any of us possible could, "He couldn't even hurt a fly. If he did what you're saying he did, he was most definitely not in his senses." The only one saying otherwise is a prostitute who herself admitted that she would do anything for money. So who do we trust. The family and friends. The people closest to Mr. Crane, who knew him well. Or her. It's not a difficult choice. That's for sure. I have always had enormous faith in the justice system. And with that faith, I'm sure you all will make the right choice.

Prosecution:

Good Morning, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, ...