

EWELL FINED \$300 FOR PARTIAL GUILT



Rev. Sykes



Link Deas



Helen R.



Calpurnia

In a heated trial on Thursday, Helen Robinson aimed to sue Bob Ewell for \$450. The charges: harassment, violation of Ladies' Law, and defamation of character.

Time seemed to fly as each side presented their evidence. One moment Atty. Attica Finch was crushing the defendant with her cunning questions; the next, Mayella Ewell's bluntness had her at a loss for words. Atty. Phil Gilmer abstained from cross-examination of the first three witnesses, but the tides changed when his witnesses were called to the stand.



Mayella E.

At first, it seemed that the Ewells were incriminating themselves. Subdued laughter rang out as Burris Ewell contradicted his every answer and finally ended by exclaiming that he was uneducated. Atty. Gilmer, however, quickly established that the family behaved roughly towards everyone, and it was normal for the father to "ramble on" when drunk. When asked if he had considered how taking Helen's husband to trial would affect her reputation, he answered, "Never crossed my mind. I just wanted justice for my daughter."



Burris E.

On the other hand, Atty. Finch cross-examined all the defending witnesses. She fired questions at them, putting them in a fluster or an unresponsive state. She countered Gilmer's evidence by asking Bob Ewell how he would define following Helen for over a mile and shouting obscene things at her.

Did he consider “borderline-harassment” normal? Ewell could not give an adequate answer.

In her ending statements, Atty. Finch summarized the evidence she had produced - Helen’s inability to get a job due to her husband’s reputation, her chunking at the hands of the Ewell children, and Bob Ewell’s harassment of her. She added that Helen’s husband was convicted unfairly; he had appealed to state court but was shot in prison. She asked the court to consider both the emotional and factual side of the case and find the defendant guilty.

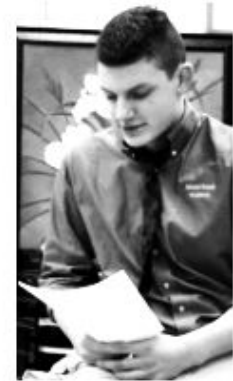


Atty. Finch



Bob Ewell

Atty. Gilmer appeared less prepared, but he repeated the children's pleas that their father “would never hurt a fly.” He continued to explain that their rude behaviour was normal for them, it was not Ewell’s fault that people wouldn’t hire Helen, and Bob Ewell had never hurt anyone - nor intended to.



Atty. Gilmer



Judge Hogan

The Jury’s decision: Bob Ewell was found guilty for harassment and violation of Ladies’ Law. As for defamation of character, he was found not guilty. Judge Hogan fined him \$300. His monthly payment (except what was needed to support the family) would go to paying off this fine.

No one had been certain which way the case would go, and both sides fought hard and well. In the end, it seems a fair decision was made.