

Title: *People v. Johnson*

Scene: A courtroom. The judge, *Hon. Patricia Reyes*, presides. The defendant, *Alex Johnson*, is accused of stealing a valuable painting from an art gallery.

Characters:

- **Judge Patricia Reyes** (The Judge)
- **Mr. Brown** (Prosecutor)
- **Ms. Lee** (Defense Attorney)
- **Alex Johnson** (Defendant)
- **Court Clerk**

Court Clerk: All rise. The court is now in session, the Honorable Judge Patricia Reyes presiding.

Judge: Please be seated. We are here today in the matter of *People v. Johnson*, case number 34987. Mr. Johnson, you stand accused of theft of a painting valued at \$250,000 from the Blue Horizon Gallery. How do you plead?

Defendant: Not guilty, Your Honor.

Judge: Very well. Mr. Brown, you may present your opening statement.

Mr. Brown (Prosecutor): Thank you, Your Honor. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the evidence will show that on the evening of April 12, Mr. Johnson was seen on security footage entering the Blue Horizon Gallery after hours. He left minutes later with a large item, and the next morning, the painting was missing. We intend to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Johnson took this painting for personal profit.

Judge: Thank you, Mr. Brown. Ms. Lee, your opening statement?

Ms. Lee (Defense Attorney): Thank you, Your Honor. Ladies and gentlemen, my client, Alex Johnson, was indeed at the gallery, but he was there for legitimate reasons related to his work as an art installer. The footage will show no proof of theft, and we will present evidence that someone else, with full access to the gallery, had the motive to steal this artwork. At the end of this trial, I am confident you will find my client not guilty.

Judge: Very well. We will begin with the prosecution's first witness. Mr. Brown, call your witness.

Mr. Brown: The prosecution calls Officer Sarah Tran to the stand.

(Officer Tran takes the stand and is sworn in by the Clerk.)

Mr. Brown: Officer Tran, on the night in question, were you involved in the investigation of the missing painting?

Officer Tran: Yes, I was. I reviewed the security footage from the gallery and identified Mr.

Johnson as the last person seen leaving the building with a large, wrapped object.

Ms. Lee: Objection, Your Honor. The defense will demonstrate that this object was Mr. Johnson's tool kit, used for his work.

Judge: Sustained. Mr. Brown, please proceed with caution.

Mr. Brown: Understood, Your Honor. Officer Tran, could you clarify if you found any direct evidence that Mr. Johnson took the painting?

Officer Tran: No, there was no direct evidence, only the security footage.

Judge: Very well. You may step down, Officer. Ms. Lee, you may call your witness.