

QUESTION 14 THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION SHOULD GO IN BLUEBOOK V

Betty and Bob Burns were deeply in debt and experiencing financial hardship. Betty called her neighbor, Hanna Hand, to discuss her financial troubles. Betty's home was well insured. Betty expressed the intent to burn down her own home to collect insurance proceeds. Betty asked Hanna to set the fire for her, but Hanna declined. Betty asked Hanna to purchase gasoline for her and again Hanna declined, stating, "I want no part of your crime." Betty then asked Hanna whether Hanna kept gasoline for her lawn equipment in her garage. Hanna indicated she had two full containers of gasoline in her garage. Betty asked Hanna to keep her garage door unlocked that evening, so that Betty could take Hanna's gasoline. Hanna confirmed that she would leave her garage door unlocked. Betty thanked Hanna and took the gasoline from Hanna's garage. The following day, while Bob was away, Betty poured the gasoline throughout her home. When Bob returned, he smelled gasoline and traced it to the rear of the home. There he found Betty distributing the gasoline. Bob was shocked to see Betty distribute the last few ounces of gasoline and ignite the fire. Bob grabbed Betty by the arm and escorted her out of harm's way. Neither Bob nor Betty made any attempt to call the fire department or extinguish the fire. The couple stood outside and watched as their home was engulfed in flames.

Discuss the facts and law that would support the imposition of criminal liability, if any, on Betty, Hanna and Bob. Explain your answer.

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