

Description for the general public

Have you ever wondered how the work of a lawyer looks like? But really, what it would be to walk the shoes of attorney at law? Let's say, that you come to work at 10 a.m. because you were working late on this succession case. Your assistant Joan is already waiting for you with the coffee – you didn't even have to ask. It's nice by her side, isn't it? Would you smile at her? You come to your room and sit at the oak desk. It took almost three months to get this piece of furniture from Italy, but it's heavy, it's formidable... it makes the clients trust you, you know what you're doing. You hand the morning paper – The Voice of Great Poland – but you do not really have the time to read the news, because Mrs. Kwiatkowska (the one with the alimony) is coming soon. You need to look through the papers. Recently she brought you a pile of documents to make the evidence of cheating out of them, because “that pig surely cheats on her! You can see it in his eyes! He always has dark circles under them when he comes back from work”. You are not really surprised, but what to do?

Exactly, what to do? You know he is not guilty. At least not guilty of cheating. Everything points at the fact, he is taking the extra hours at work to pay the poker debts he have not mentioned to his wife. But it looks like she was waiting a long time to file for divorce anyway and blame him in the process. There is handsome dark haired guy waiting for her in the atrium. What will you do? Will you take the case? Will you lead it as she wishes it? Will you make the cheater out of him? Eventually it's your job and you have to earn money. Or maybe you will persuade her to drop this idea? Or explain her why is it illegal to act as she wishes? You can feel it that her intentions aren't good and you even start to pity the guy, who currently shares his life with her, but soon will be dividing the belongings. Maybe you will warn him about her? Or maybe the client's confidence rule will stop you to do so? There is plenty of logics, telling you what is right and how you should act upon it but which one to choos...

(...) Fortunately, the calendar on your phone reminded you that it's 11:30 and you have to go to the trial, so you excuse future divorcee and leave her with Joan. Poor thing... she never knows how to behave in such situations. Well, it's tough. You need to go. The session starts at the „High Noon”, and truly it has something from that old western. The judge is a hard-minded liberal, so the employer feels unpunishable, even though you have built the strong case of mobbing with Ms. Brzeska. I will not dwell on that, but you know she suffered greatly from working with this psychopath. After three hours, the judge discarded the case, based on the lack of proof. The woman sheds with tears; You try to calm her down, while mentally writing the appeal, but most of all you are furious inside. You know the sentence was not just, you feel it in your bones that it shouldn't be this way. Damn it, how to act when the law and the morality actually do part ways?

You come back to your office. Joan starts to tell you how heroically she handled Mrs. Kwiatkowską, but you don't listen to her at all. You are thinking only about Ms. Brzeska's case. What will you do to build her case in another instance? Will you seek for imperfections in the first lawsuit? Will you use the notes from the law school? Or maybe you would reach right to the source... the labor code shall have all the answers. But how to find them? Which paragraphs to read? How to understand them? How does it happen that just a moment later you know what to write. The first hour passes, the second, the third... it's already four at night. Tomorrow you will come to work at 10 a.m. again.

The story described above contains few problems and questions we do not have answer for when asking how the people organize the idea of what is just. The work of a lawyer seem to be governed by many rationalities, defining different solutions as equally right courses of action. We do not know what kind of logics compose the lawyer's reality and we don't know how they influence the way he or she enacts its role in the world of judiciary. We also don't know how the translation process happens, when the case we bring to the lawyer becomes the subject of law. We don't how the feeling of injustice, which motivated us to knock at the door of an attorney's office, becomes understood and transforms into the idea of how things ought to be, finding its way through the language of law. Decoding these unknowns may tell us a lot about ourselves and organizing the ideas of justice, to which I dedicate this research project and all my efforts.