

PEOPLE V. HARRY POTTER

THE COURT: Members of the jury, the defendant, Harry Potter, is charged in a one-count information which reads as follows:

On or about November 23, 2008, HARRY POTTER, did unlawfully commit an assault upon DRACO MALFOY with a deadly weapon and instrument and by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 245(a)(1).

To this charge the defendant, HARRY POTTER, has entered a plea of not guilty. It will be the job of this jury to listen to the evidence and then decide whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty of this charge. In our criminal justice system, the defendant is always presumed to be innocent, which means that in order to find the defendant guilty, each juror must be convinced of his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

District Attorney: You may make your opening statement.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Thank you, your Honor. Members of the jury, we have a very simple case to present to you today. We will prove that on the day in question, this defendant, HARRY POTTER, assaulted the victim, MR. DRACO MALFOY by the use of a deadly and dangerous weapon. In this case the weapon is a magic wand. You will hear that this defendant transformed Mr. Malfoy into a ferret with his magic wand. First, you will hear from the victim, Mr. Malfoy, who will tell you he was innocently walking through the dining hall at his wizards' school, Hogwarts, when the defendant, HARRY POTTER, put a spell on him and transformed him into a hideous ferret. Then you will hear from Professor Severus Snape who will tell you that he was in the dining hall monitoring the students when he saw Harry Potter turn Mr. Malfoy into the ferret. Professor Snape will tell you he ran to get his book of potions and that it took him several minutes to turn Mr. Malfoy back into a wizard. After you hear our witnesses, we are convinced you will find the defendant GUILTY as charged.

THE COURT: Thank you, District Attorney. Defense Counsel, you may make your opening statement.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Thank you, your Honor. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will prove that things are not as simple as the District Attorney will lead you to believe. First we will call to the stand Hermione Granger. She will testify that she was in the dining hall with her best friends, Harry Potter and Ron Weasley when Mr. Malfoy approached their table and started harassing them. When Hermione told Malfoy to leave them alone, Malfoy ran up to her and got right next to her face and called her a "mudblood". You will hear that that word is a very negative word at Hogwarts. The next thing she saw was that Malfoy had changed into a ferret.

Then you will hear from my client, HARRY POTTER. He will tell you that he has known Mr. Malfoy for many years and that Malfoy is a mean and angry young man that is very jealous of my client. Harry was sitting with his friends, Hermione and Ron when Malfoy came up and started bothering them. He saw Hermione tell Malfoy to go away and all of a sudden, he saw Malfoy make an aggressive move towards Hermione and he heard Malfoy use bad language by calling Hermione a “mudblood.” He had a second to react and he pulled out his wand and turned Malfoy into a ferret. He was only trying to protect his close friend, Hermione, from the evil Malfoy. Once you have heard all the evidence, I am confident you will find my client NOT GUILTY.

THE COURT: Thank you, defense counsel. District Attorney, you may call your first witness.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Your Honor, the people call Mr. Draco Malfoy.

(Clerk swears in witness Malfoy and has him give his name)

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Mr. Malfoy, can you tell us what happened to you on November 23, 2008?

MALFOY: I certainly can. I was in the Great Hall at Hogwarts minding my own business when I came upon the defendant, Harry Potter, and his grimy friends, Hermione and Ron. The next thing I know, Harry Potter has pulled out his wand and just like that I am transformed into a ferret.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: What did you do next?

MALFOY: I couldn't do anything. I tried to speak, but all I could do was squeak! I was scared to death! I saw Professor Snape run up to me and get out a book of potions and his wand. After what seemed like an eternity, Professor Snape was able to turn me back into myself. It was the scariest moment of my life!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Mr. Malfoy, do you see the wizard that assaulted you on November 23, 2008 here in court today?

MALFOY: Yes, I do.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Could you please point him out for the jury?

MALFOY: He's right there!
(Witness points to HARRY POTTER).

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: No further questions, your Honor.

THE COURT: Defense counsel, you may cross examine.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Mr. Malfoy, isn't it true that you are from the Slytherin house and my client, Harry Potter is from the rival house, Gryfiindor?

MALFOY: Yes, that's true, but the rivalry is all in good fun.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Isn't it also true that you came up to my client and his friends and started calling them names?

MALFOY: I don't remember it that way.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Maybe you'll remember this, Mr. Malfoy. Do you remember running up to Ms. Hermione Granger and getting right in her face and calling her a "mudblood"?

MALFOY: I don't recall that.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Mr. Malfoy, have you ever used the term "mudblood."?

MALFOY: I might have at some point, but I don't recall using it on that day.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Right, Mr. Malfoy. Isn't it also true, that right after you turned into a ferret, Professor Snape came over and turned you right back into a wizard?

MALFOY: It seemed like it took forever!

DEFENSE COUNSEL: And once you were turned back into a wizard, you were perfectly fine, right?

MALFOY: Absolutely not! I have nightmares all the time about being a ferret.

DEFENSE COUNSEL: I'm through with this witness, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Malfoy, you may step down. District Attorney, you may call your next witness.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Your honor, the People call Professor Severus Snape.

(Clerk swears in the witness and has witness give his name).

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Professor Snape, how are you employed?

SNAPE: I am a Professor of Potions at the Hogwarts School.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Do you remember being in the Great Hall at Hogwarts on November 23, 2008 when something unusual happened?

SNAPE: Yes, I do. I was in charge of monitoring the students in the Great Hall. From a distance I saw Draco Malfoy talking to Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley. It looked like things were getting a bit heated. Then all of a sudden, I saw Harry Potter pull out his magic wand and transform Malfoy into what appeared to be a ferret!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: What did you do next, Professor?

SNAPE: I grabbed my book of potions, and leafed through it as quickly as I could until I found the potion for turning a ferret into a wizard and then I turned Malfoy back into a wizard.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Do you see Harry Potter in court this morning?

SNAPE: I do.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Could you point him out for the jury?

SNAPE : He's right there with the big glasses.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Your Honor, may the record reflect that the witness has identified the defendant, Harry Potter?

THE COURT: Yes.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: No further questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Defense Attorney, you may cross examine.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Professor Snape isn't it true that you are head of the Slytherin house at Hogwarts?

SNAPE: Well, yes that's true.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: And isn't it also true that Malfoy is also in Slytherin?

SNAPE: Yes, so what?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Isn't it true that my client, Harry Potter, has single handedly won the Quidditch competition for Gryffindor House for the last 3 years beating out Slytherin House?

SNAPE: Well yes, that's true.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: So you would like nothing more than to see Harry Potter convicted of these charges, right?

SNAPE: I am only here to testify about what I saw! This isn't about a Quidditch competition!

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Okay, then let's talk about what you saw. You said you saw Malfoy talking to Harry, Hermione and Ron. Correct?

SNAPE: Correct.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Could you hear what they were talking about?

SNAPE: No, I was too far away to hear them.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: You said on direct examination that the conversation seemed a bit heated. What did you mean by that?

SNAPE: They all looked very upset and were talking loudly.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Isn't it true that Malfoy ran towards Hermione and got right in her face and started yelling at her?

SNAPE: Well, something like that; I can't be sure; it happened so long ago.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Isn't that when you saw Harry transform Malfoy into the ferret?

SNAPE: That could be right. I'm just not sure exactly how it happened. I just got so worried about Malfoy.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: About how long did it take you to turn Malfoy back into himself?

SNAPE: I would say at least 4 or 5 minutes. I couldn't find my book of potions and it's way easier to turn a wizard into a ferret than to turn a ferret back into a wizard. It's actually a very tricky transformation. Good thing I was there; no one else at Hogwarts could have performed that transformation.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: I appreciate that Professor. After you transformed Malfoy back into a wizard, other than his ego, was he injured in any way?

SNAPE: No, not really; but he was an emotional basket case.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: No further questions, your Honor.

THE COURT: You may step down, Professor. Thank you for coming in. Any additional witnesses on behalf of the people?

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: The People rest.

THE COURT: Does the defense wish to call any witnesses?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: We certainly do, your Honor. The defense calls Hermione Granger.

(Clerk swears in the witness and has her state her name).

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Hermione, do you recall what happened in the Great Hall on November 23, 2008?

HERMIONE: Like it was yesterday!

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Tell the jury what you recall.

HERMIONE: Harry, Ron and I were eating our dinner and talking about the Quidditch competition that was going to take place the next day, when Malfoy came up and started mouthing off about how he was going to kick Harry's butt in Quidditch. I told Malfoy to go away. He runs over to me and puts his ugly face right next to mine and calls me a "Mudblood". It was really scary. The next thing I see is that Malfoy had been transformed into a ferret. It was the funniest thing I've seen in years.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Did you see who transformed Malfoy into the ferret?

HERMIONE: No, I couldn't see a thing because Malfoy had his big fat head in front of me.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: What happened next?

HERMIONE: Harry, Ron and I were sitting there cracking up and Professor Snape came over and started yelling at us. He got out his wand and changed Malfoy back into a wizard. He looked way better as a ferret, if you want my opinion.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Nothing further with this witness, your Honor.

THE COURT: District Attorney, you may cross examine.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Ms. Granger, isn't it true that Harry is and always has been your best friend at Hogwarts?

HERMIONE: Well, I guess that's true if you include Ron as well.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: You'd do anything to get Harry out of trouble, wouldn't you, Hermione?

HERMIONE: I'd do a lot for Harry, but I sure wouldn't lie for him.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Right, Ms. Granger. So you're going to tell this jury that you have no idea who turned Malfoy into the ferret, is that right?

HERMIONE: That's right.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: I'm done with this witness, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Ms. Granger, you may step down. Thanks for coming in. Defense attorney, you may call your next witness.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Your honor, we call Harry Potter.

(The clerk swears in the witness and asks him his name).

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Harry, can you tell the members of the jury what happened on November 23, 2008 in the Great Hall.

HARRY: Sure. Hermione, Ron and I were enjoyed our dinner at the Great Hall when Malfoy came up to us and started yelling something about how great he is in quidditch. Hermione told him to shut up or something and Malfoy goes nuts like usual. He runs up to Hermione and started calling her names like "mudblood". I thought he was going to attack her, so I pulled out my wand and transformed him into a harmless ferret.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Why did you do that, Harry?

HARRY: You have no idea how vicious Malfoy is. He'd think nothing of beating up Hermione. I wasn't going to stand by and wait for him to harm her.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Why did you transform him into a ferret of all things?

HARRY: I had a second to react; it was the only potion I knew.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: What happened next?

HARRY: Well, everyone was laughing at Malfoy except Professor Snape. He got very upset at me and transformed Malfoy back into himself.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Nothing further, your Honor.

THE COURT: District Attorney, you may cross examine.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Mr. Potter, are you really trying to tell this jury that you thought Mr. Malfoy was going to beat up Hermione right in the middle of the Great Hall?

HARRY: I wouldn't put it past him.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Have you ever seen Mr. Malfoy attack any student at Hogwarts?

HARRY: Well, I guess not.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Wasn't the annual Quidditch competition going to be the next day, Mr. Potter?

HARRY: Yes, it was.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Isn't Mr. Malfoy your biggest competition every year in Quidditch?

HARRY: Well, yeah, I guess.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: It would be a little difficult for Mr. Malfoy to compete in the quidditch competition if he was a ferret, wouldn't it, Mr. Potter?

HARRY: To be honest, it's hard for him to compete against Gryffindor no matter what condition he's in!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: If you were so scared for Hermione's safety, then why did the three of you sit around and laugh after you turned Malfoy into the ferret?

HARRY: I do feel really bad about that, but he looked so pathetic as a little ferret and all he could do was squeak. It was a riot!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: That's all, your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Potter. You may step down. Does the defense now rest?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Yes, we do, your Honor.

THE COURT: Then the District Attorney may now make a closing argument.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Thank you, your Honor. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a clear case of assault. The court will instruct you that assault is any act that by its nature results in the application of physical force to another person. Of course it takes physical force to transform Malfoy into a ferret. You must also find that Mr. Potter did not do the transformation in defense of Ms. Granger. Do you really believe for one minute that Harry Potter actually thought that Mr. Malfoy was going to attack Ms. Granger in the middle of the Great Hall? That's ridiculous! The truth is that Mr. Potter just wanted to get rid of his big rival in the Quidditch competition that was scheduled for the next day. The only wizard that could possibly beat Mr. Potter was Mr. Malfoy. Mr. Potter and Ms. Granger talk about how scared they were by Mr. Malfoy, but yet, what do they do after he is unlawfully transformed into the ferret? They sit there and laugh at him. Thank goodness Professor Snape was there to transform Mr. Malfoy back into himself. Otherwise, we could have had a ferret in court today instead of Mr. Malfoy. I would urge you to find the defendant, Harry Potter, guilty of assault with the deadliest of all weapons, the magic wand.

THE COURT: Thank you, District Attorney. Defense Attorney, you may make your closing argument.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Thank you, your Honor. Members of the jury, this case has reasonable doubt written all over it. The only witnesses called by the district attorney are Malfoy and Professor Snape, the two wizards at Hogwarts that hate Harry Potter the most. Think how simple things would be for the Slytherin house if Harry Potter was in jail? Maybe then the Slytherin house could actually win something at Hogwarts instead of always coming in second best. Harry had to react in a split second. Would he protect Hermione or let Malfoy attack her? Anyone would have done the same thing! Plus, he knew it would be no big deal to turn Malfoy back into a wizard. Can you believe what a cry baby Malfoy is? Please set my client free. Find Harry Potter not guilty.

THE COURT: Thank you, defense attorney. Members of the jury in order to find the defendant guilty, you must find that the district attorney has convinced you beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant did an act that by its nature would result in the application of force to another creature. The term application of force means to make contact with another creature in a harmful way. The slightest contact can be enough. The contact does not have to cause pain or injury of any kind. The defendant is not guilty of assault if he used force against the other creature in defense of another if he reasonably believed that Hermione was in immediate danger of bodily injury and the defendant reasonably believed that the use of force was necessary to defend against that danger. Court should also define reasonable doubt.

Jury deliberates.