



Unpacking Our Professional Assumptions:

or

**“Boy, Those Lawyers/
Social Workers/
Psychologists
Can Be Jerks!”**



**Case discussion –
Laura Lawyer, Stan Social
Worker, and
Paul Psychologist
are at a case meeting about
Mrs. Jones’ custody case.**



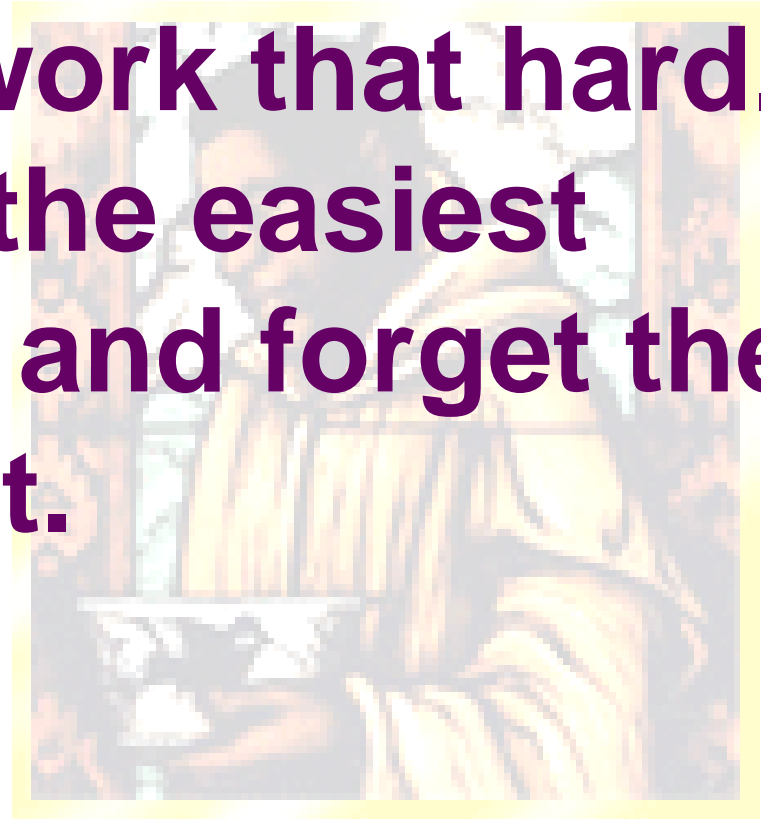
Stan hears:

I expect you to fix this client's whole life, so that I don't have to be bothered. I'll just do the interesting, important legal stuff. I'm in charge and you work for me.



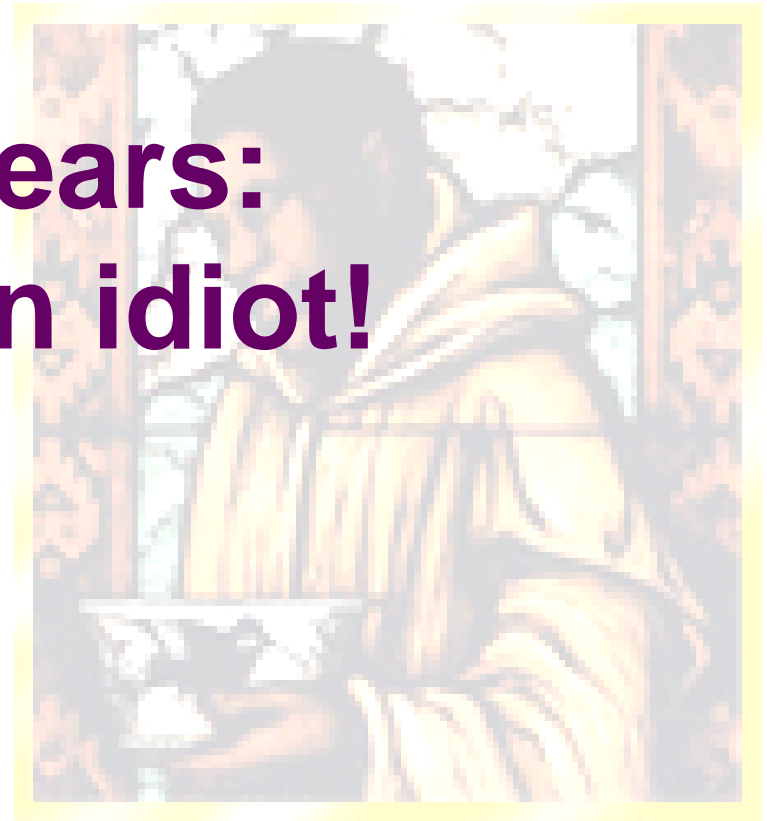
Laura hears:

**I don't want to work that hard.
I'll just pick the easiest
problem for me, and forget the
rest.**





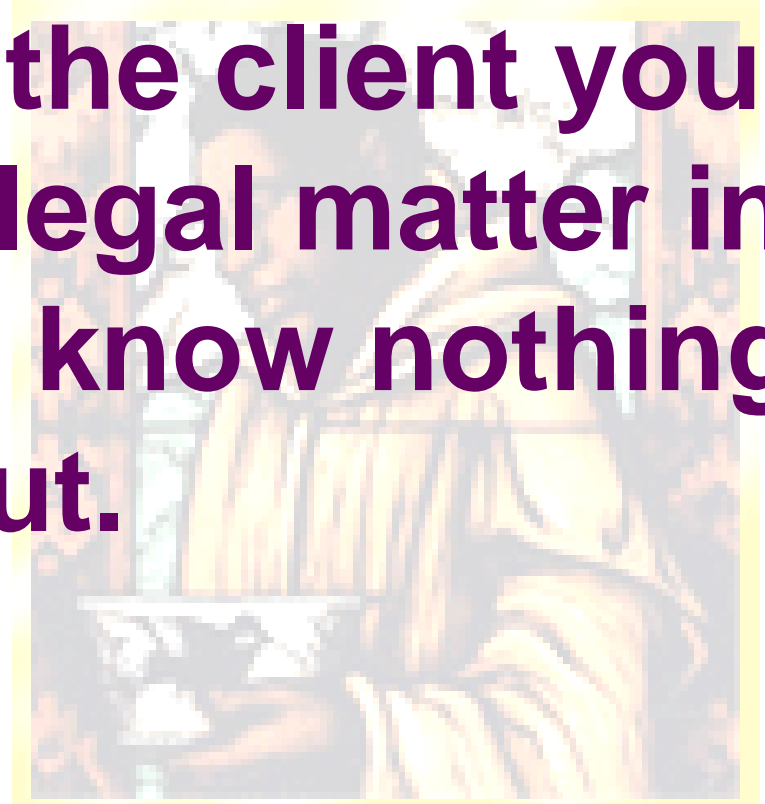
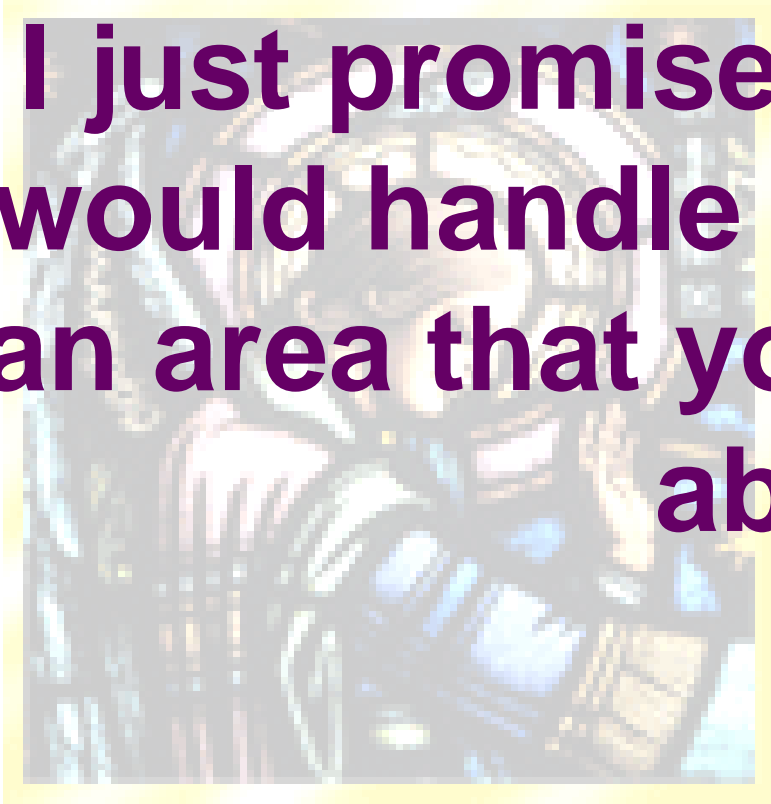
**Stan hears:
You're an idiot!**





Laura hears:

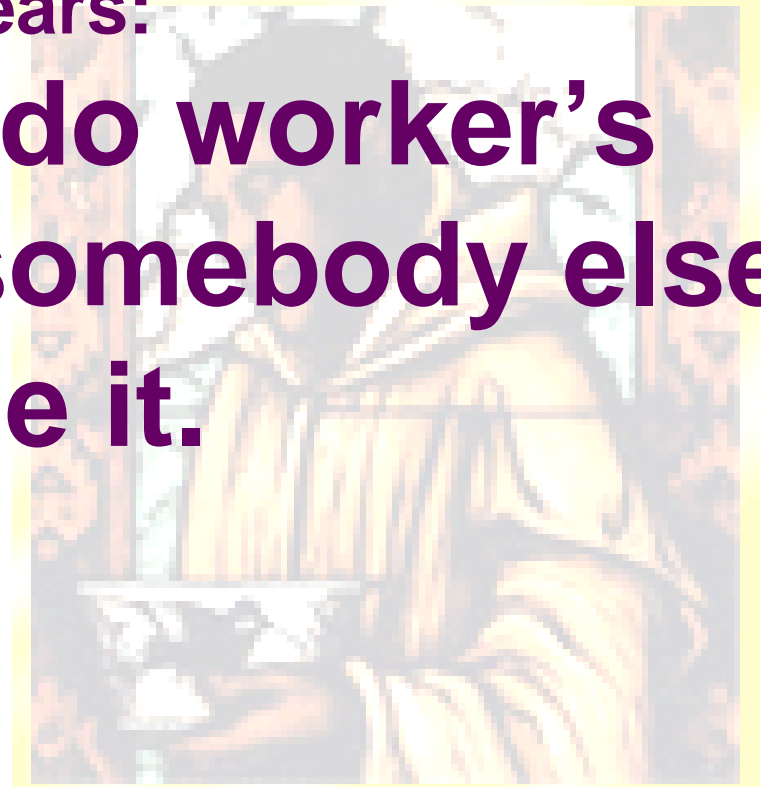
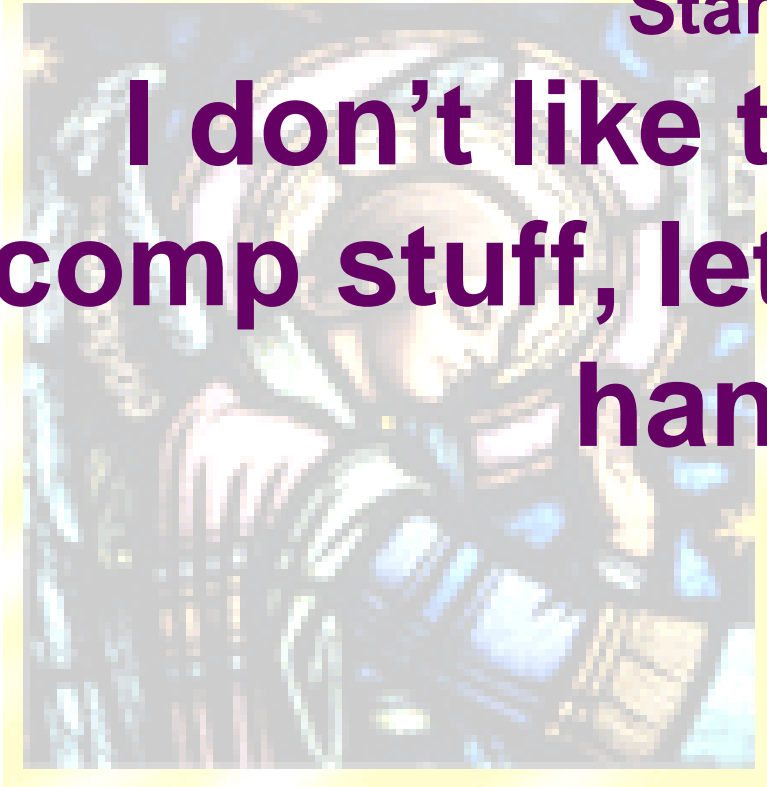
I just promised the client you would handle a legal matter in an area that you know nothing about.





Stan hears:

**I don't like to do worker's
comp stuff, let somebody else
handle it.**





Paul hears:

I expect you to say whatever I want to hear for my case.

Also, that inkblot thing sounds like fun.



Laura hears:

I am not a very good psychologist, and you're just going to have to live with my limited skills. I too can use jargon to hide my incompetence.



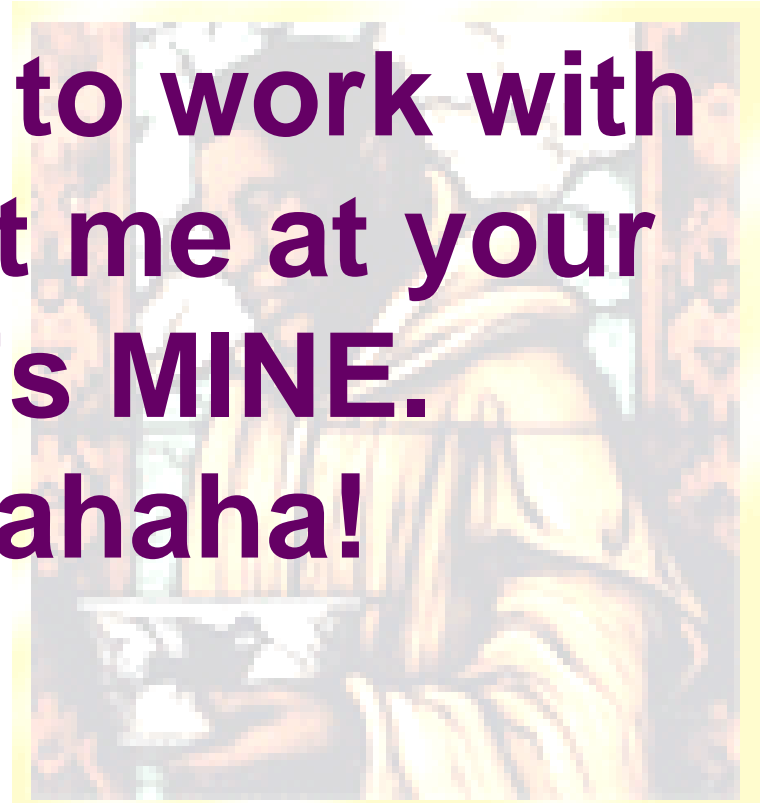
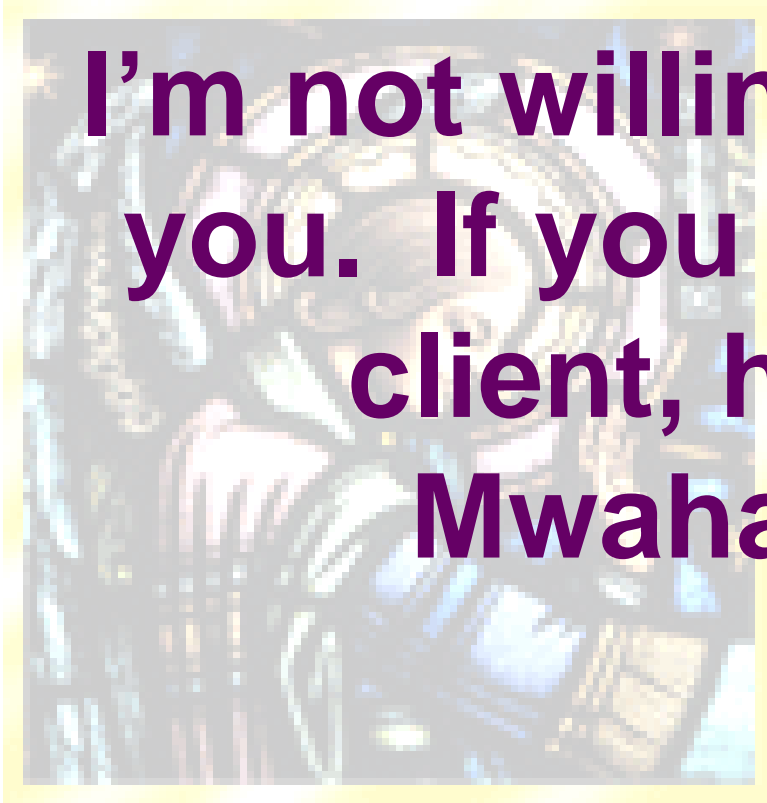
Paul hears:

**I don't care about actual
mental health issues, I just
want you to lie for me, if
necessary, to win my case.**



Laura hears:

**I'm not willing to work with
you. If you let me at your
client, he's MINE.
Mwahahahaha!**





Paul hears:

I'm not really trained in psychology, but I still think I can diagnose just by talking to the kid. And I'm going to suck up to the lawyer and say what she wants to hear.



**Stan hears:
Social workers can't
diagnose. By the way, I'm
smarter than you.**

