



THE RIGHT PLACE FOR A RIGHT HOOK

SINGLETARY V. STATE,
713 S.E.2D 698 (GA. APP. 2011)

Bob Rains

Doug Singletary was cooling his heels
In the jail of the County of Hall.
He had a job cleaning up after meals,
But he got himself into a brawl.

Doug was clearing the trays with an inmate named Kevin
When some disputation arose.
Although it is no way to get into heaven,
The two were quite soon trading blows.

The guards needed handcuffs, a taser and shackles
To finally get Doug subdued.
This incident naturally raised the state's hackles,
And criminal charges ensued.

The D.A. charged Doug with many a crime
Including the offense, "affray."
The jury found that Doug needed more prison time;
He was guilty and he had to pay.

Bob Rains is a professor at the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law where, for many reasons, he does not teach crim. Copyright © 2011 Robert E. Rains.



Doug took an appeal on the crime of "affray."
He thought he was holding an ace:
The words of the statute quite clearly say
That it's fighting in some public place.

I wasn't in public, Doug said with a grin,
I was locked up inside of a jail.
The public's not there; they don't *want* to get in,
And so the conviction must fail.

The Right Place for a Right Hook

The Court of Appeals examined the law
And concluded that Doug had a point.
An “affray” can’t take place, these wise judges saw,
When you beat someone up in the joint.

The moral, my friend, when you’re angry as hell
And you wish to begin an affray,
Is first get yourself locked inside a jail cell,
And it will all work out okay.

