



PANTS ON FIRE

Robert E. Rains

“Lawyer’s pants catch fire during arson trial.”

ABA Journal online, Mar. 9, 2017

The County Attorney had charged Claudy Charles
With setting his auto on fire.
Claudy claimed that his car had ignited itself,
So a firebrand lawyer he hired.

Stephen Gutierrez appeared to set Claudy free
From these spurious charges of arson.
He was telling the jury that Claudy’s pure soul
Was not unlike that of a parson,

When, all of a sudden, things got quite hot
In the middle of Stephen’s summation:
The slick lawyer’s slacks, before everyone’s eyes,
Burst forth in a wild conflagration.

You’d have thought that this show of spontaneous flames
Might have softened the heart of each juror,
But the jury convicted nevertheless
In the face of this pyrotech horror.

Bob Rains is an emeritus professor at the Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, PA. His pants have never caught on fire. Copyright 2017 Robert E. Rains.

Robert E. Rains

So, why did defense counsel's pants legs ignite
While soaping the jury with flattery?
He claims that the culprits were e-cigarettes
Containing a lithium battery.

We all know the mantra from when we were kids
There are certain results for a liar:
Your nose will grow longer and, not only that,
But your pants will be eaten by fire.

It's too early to tell if defense counsel will
Be the next one to sit in the hot seat.
Was it all just a stunt intended to show
That a fire can start where there's not heat?

Despite counsel's efforts, Claudy is now
Beginning his incarceration.
Stay tuned; there'll be more, no doubt, to come out
Regarding this strange in-flammation.

