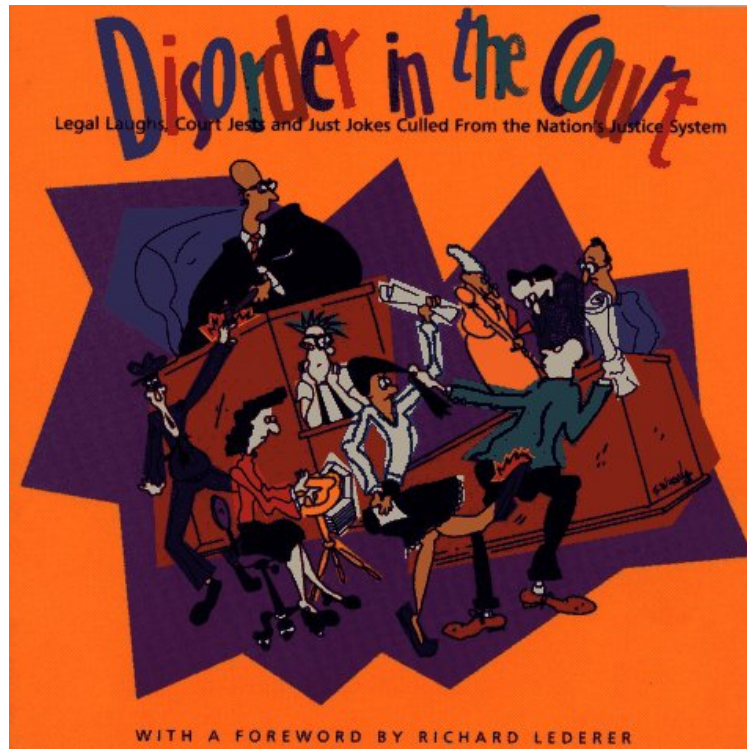


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Disorder in the Court: Legal Laughs, Court Jests and Just Jokes culled from the Nation's Justice System

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11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. An unparalleled collection of hilarious courtroom anecdotes By Michael Wells Glueck Except in novels by Scott Turow, levity is not normally associated with courtroom testimony. But witnesses and defendants exhibit varying degrees of intelligence and comprehension, and misunderstandings result in genuinely funny responses. Sometimes the judge or attorney welcomes these moments. I especially liked the attorney's comment, when, upon request, a witness demonstrated a lewd gesture: "You enjoyed that, didn't you?" Then there was the judge who deferred sentencing until after the hunting season, so that the culprit could "take care of important things first." There are as many double entendres as in Shakespeare, and about as many have sexual connotations. You can read the entire book in a couple of hours of laughter, and you'll be quoting your favorite quips for years. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars By Forrest Martin not particularly funny, most of it disappointing 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Too little for so much By Darlene MF While the content is funny, the cost of the book was shocking!! \$40.00 I did not realize that this book is quite small, I gave this

as a gift so am not able to provide actual size. Definitely not a "got your attention" table topper."

Book by Compiled from court records

Need some comic relief? Take a lighter look at litigation with Disorder in the Court This new compilation of transcript excerpts, with a foreword by bestselling author Richard Lederer, will leave you dizzy with laughter! You probably can recall dozens of examples of how the English language is mangled, manhandled and misinterpreted every day. This becomes even more apparent in the legal arena, where unintended jests and linguistic blunders are commonplace. Now, we've compiled the best examples sent to us by court reporters around the nation. -- Book DescriptionFrom the Back CoverThe verdict is in. So funny, it should be illegal! How lucky we are that some of the funniest linguistic misquotes and slipups have been immortalized by the swift hands of America's court reporters. Disorder in the Court contains hundreds of clips, quips and outtakes from verbatim transcripts taken in courtrooms across America. This hilarious compendium of verbal disasters testifies to the vulnerability of the English language and the power of the pun. A. I told my attorney that I'd take that polyester test to show I wasn't lying, but no one ever gave me one. Q. Where were you? A. I was in the front right passenger seat. Q. What state were you in? A. I was slightly inebriated. I was in good spirits Q. Were you in Illinois? Q. Trooper, was the defendant obviously drunk when you arrested her? DEFENSE COUNSEL: Objection. Q. Trooper, when you stopped the defendant were your red and blue lights flashing? A. Yes. Q. Did the defendant say anything when she got out of her car? A. Yes, sir. Q. What did she say? A. What disco am I at? Q. What is your marital status? A. Right now it's not too good. Retire to your chambers with Disorder in the Court and enjoy the multitude of funny ways people misinterpret, mangle and manhandle the spoken word.Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Foreword: Hear ye! Hear ye! Court will now come to disorder! Most language is spoken language, and most words, once they are uttered, vanish forever into the air. But such is not the case with language spoken during courtroom trials, for there exists an army of court reporters whose job it is to take down and preserve every statement made during these proceedings. Recording in shorthand every syllable uttered during hearings, depositions, trials and sentencings, America's court reporters are literally America's keepers of the word. That is the special appeal of courtroom bloopers. We know that the uncut gems gleaming out from transcripts are authentic, genuine, certified and uncut. We know that they are not manufactured and polished by some professional humorist. That's because, for decades, court reporters have snared and then shared their favorite court jests, which they call transquips. Transquips are woven from whole cloth, with a bit of lunatic fringe. Only real life itself could produce this courtroom classic: Q. What is your brother-in-law's name? A. Borofkin. Q. What is his first name? A. I can't remember. Q. He's been your brother-in-law for 45 years, and you can't remember his first name? A. No, I tell you I'm too excited. (Rising from the witness chair and pointing to Mr. Borofkin) Nathan, for God's sake, tell them your first name! Another reason that transquips detonate the reader's stomach into a rolling boil is their unique mix of seriousness and humor. It is ironic the regularity with which laughter invades that most hallowed of all venues, the legal inner sanctum. H.L. Mencken once observed, The penalty for laughing in a courtroom is six months; if it were not for this penalty, the jury would never hear the evidence. Transquips are the cracked side of the gripping trial scenes we see in movies and read about in novels. In real-life courtrooms, lawyers can ask the weirdest questions, witnesses can say the darnedest things and high drama often turns into low comedy. You wouldn't believe some of the things that tumble out of lawyers' mouths in the heat of battle or the throes of boredom. All attorneys have those days when they think their brains belong to Daniel Webster and Clarence Darrow but their tongues belong to Elmer Fudd and Daffy Duck. Q. How many times have you committed suicide? Q. You were there until the time you left, is that true? Running the mouth before putting the brain in gear also afflicts many a witness: DEFENDANT: I can't pay the fine because I'm disabled. JUDGE: What's your problem? DEFENDANT: All my glands is prostrated. Q. James stood back and shot Tommy Lee? A. Yes. Q. And then Tommy Lee pulled out the gun and shot James in the fracas? A. (After a hesitation) No sir, just above it. Fortunately for all of us, Mary Louise Gilman, longtime editor of the National Shorthand Reporter, bloophologized many of the best transquips in Humor in the Court and More Humor in the Court(1984). And, in fact, she also had a hand in this book, which contains the best transquips of the past dozen years. To her, who defined the genre of courtroom blunders, this book is justly dedicated. "Life is a little brighter because a troop of court reporters has been stationed in our halls of justice to capture all the gavel to gabble laughter. Each of the examples of disorder in the court you are about to read is on public record, all taken down by America's keepers of the word. May their tribe increase and multiply." Richard Lederer, Author of Anguished English. Some Examples: Relevance MR. SLACK: OK, I will cross-examine not because it is relevant, but I want to ask an additional question of this witness that I also feel is irrelevant but relevant to what is irrelevant. Say What? Q. Can you give me a single reason why you wouldn't have told Daniel that you believed the product was well designed? A. The fact that I might have no reason not to say something doesn't mean I said it, and I don't I don't see what that has to do that I might not have a reason to say it and the inference that I did say it because I had no reason not to. Relaxing the Witness Q. Have you ever had your deposition taken before? A. No Q. Well, it's just like we're sitting in a living room talking, except that you're nervous and I'm not. An Honest Criminal THE COURT: What is your occupation? THE DEFENDANT:

I'm a thief. THE COURT: Thief. I see. How's business? THE DEFENDANT: It's a little slow right now. THE COURT: And how do you get along when you are not working at your usual occupation? THE DEFENDANT: I'm usually in prison. THE COURT: I see. Definition of Prolific Q. How many children do you have? A. What do you mean? Q. Did you understand my question? A. Yeah, but you don'tt understand mine. Q. I said, how many children do you have? A. Twenty-seven. Q. OK. A. You should ask me what you mean. You didn't say by my wife. You said how many children did I have. Q. And you've got nine by your wife? A. That's right. Q. Are there 18 by any prior wives? A. Well, I got two kids by my first wife. Q. And the others, you were not married to the mothers? A. That's right.