

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS GROUP WORK

WITNESS

You are the African-American apartment manager. Your apartment has been robbed four times; however, the police have no suspects because no witnesses have come forward. Last night your wife was out of town visiting her mother and you went to the Knicks game. On the way home, you were stopped because your tail-light was out. The cop gave you an extremely hard time (you suspect because you are not white) and made you take a DUI test (you passed). You had just gotten home when you heard a commotion but couldn't see it. You went into your apartment and looked out the window just in time to see a man in a Giants jacket with a dew rag throw something down the storm drain. You did not call the police.



WITNESS

You are a 19-year-old, runaway crack-head who lives on the 8th floor. Last night, you were in your apartment high as a kite. You watched the whole thing. A man in a dark jacket with something on his head attacked a woman. He stopped twice, but came back each time and finally the girl stopped making noise.

You went down afterward and stole the dead woman's watch.

You never called the police.



WITNESS

You are a 29-year-old, single, ER intern. You recently got sued for malpractice when you stopped to help an injured person on the street and due to your inexperience misdiagnosed the injury. Though the injured person would've died without your help, you are still sued. The malpractice insurance only covers you while you are at the hospital; the case is pending.

You were at home last night, on the 5th floor, right above the incident. You saw a man from above with a dew rag and a Giant's jacket approach a woman. You heard her scream. You closed your window and turned up the stereo. Fifteen minutes later you turned down the stereo, heard more screaming, and turned the stereo back up again.

WITNESS

You live on the 2nd floor. You are a 48-year-old, single, white, beer drinking, bigoted, chauvinist who wears wife-beater t-shirts. Your wife just left you for drunken abusiveness and is currently dating a cop.

Last night, you were watching the pay-per-view boxing and screaming obscenities. Between rounds, you went to the kitchen to get a beer and out the kitchen window saw shadows of what looked like a struggle between a man and a woman. You smiled to yourself and went back to the boxing match on TV.

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WITNESS

You are a 26-year-old single, Jewish, 2nd year, Brooklyn University law student who lives on the 4th floor. You have a dog which you were walking last night when the dog started yelping and pulling on his chain. You saw the girl on the ground and someone in a Giants' jacket running away. He had a dew rag, levis, and a red plaid shirt.

You took the dog to the apartment. Because you know about the "Good Samaritan" law, you anguish whether to call the police. Out of your window, you see the attacker return to finish the job. You yelled out the window yet never called the police.

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WITNESS

You are a 32-year-old, single, Puerto Rican mother of four who lives on the 6th floor. Last night, you were coming home from your second job and saw a man start to attack a woman. You hurried into your apartment and saw your children at the window watching the attack. You closed the shades and put the kids to bed. You then asked the babysitter to stay the night.

A few weeks ago, your sister had given a statement to the police regarding a robbery. The robber's gang member friends later found her and beat and raped her. She refused to testify about either the rape or the robbery.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

You are a district attorney from Queens, N.Y. Last night, “Kitty” Genovese was attacked and stabbed to death right next to an apartment complex. Nobody from the apartment complex called the police.

The state of New York enacted a “Good Samaritan” law three months ago requiring citizens to help others in need of assistance.

Your job is to listen in on whatever interview you can, briefly speak with the police officers, and decide if any of the witnesses should be charged under the “Good Samaritan” law.



POLICE OFFICER 1

You are a police officer from Queens, New York. Last night, “Kitty” Genovese was attacked and stabbed to death right next to an apartment complex. From previous interviews, you know that each person you will interview both saw or heard the killing and did not call the police.

Your job is to interview each of these witnesses to find out what they saw and why they did not help.

Feel free to be as persuasive as necessary to get the information out of the witnesses.



POLICE OFFICER 2

You are a police officer from Queens, New York. Last night, “Kitty” Genovese was attacked and stabbed to death right next to an apartment complex. From previous interviews, you know that each person you will interview both saw and heard the killing and did not call the police.

Your job is to interview each of these witnesses to find out what they saw and why they did not help.

Feel free to be as persuasive as necessary to get the information out of the witnesses.