

FROM THE HIP

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Introduction

This project was assigned to us by Professor Howard Brill at the University of Arkansas School of Law - Fayetteville, to fulfill our paper requirement for the course of Professional Responsibility. The purpose of this assignment was to watch a legal related movie and find and write about the ethical dilemmas faced by the main character. Our group chose to watch a 1986 film starring [Judd Nelson](#) called [From the Hip](#).

In this film, Robin Weathers (Judd Nelson) is just out of law school, desperate to do trial work, and to gain recognition in his law firm. Robin convinces his senior partner to allow him to try a tort case in which he should not be able to win. He then engages in collusion with the other attorney so that both attorneys can gain recognition and take further steps to realize their goals. Robin wins the case, the attention of his firm, and the attention of the public. He is soon appointed partner and is assigned the case of representing Douglas Benoit (John Hurt), a man accused of murdering a prostitute with a hammer and then hiding her clothes in his car. Benoit, a self righteous man, maintains his innocence, but several angry outbursts occur causing Robin to doubt this claim. These doubts, fueled on by comments from one of his senior partners and from his lover, cause Robin to question his conscience about how he can he set a guilty man free.

We have chosen to set up our project as though a client or judge had already turned Robin Weathers over to the discipline committee. In the first entry ([Opinion of the Court](#)), you will find an opinion written by the committee as to the wrong doing committed by Robin. The second entry ([Judge's Diary](#)), will be a journal entry from one of the judges that had to vote on this issue. His journal entry will point out how ethical dilemmas are never easy when it comes to the gray areas of the law, and that for every argument with these areas, there is always a counter argument.

Following the "paper", you may wish to check out our [Links](#) page to visit other ethical websites. We hope you enjoy our project!

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