

# The Verdict

*by Patrick Lewis and Stace VanderStek, Class of 1997*

## Mission Statement

This web page is intended to be a easy-to-use and entertaining variation on our movie paper for Professional Responsibility. We were concerned from the beginning that if the *quality* of the writing and critical analysis suffered because of this medium, then it wasn't worth it to present it this way. In that endeavor, we've tried to include a few graphics to relieve eye strain, and have even included some humorous links involving Paul Newman at the end of this project. They are included merely for entertainment purposes, and no warranties are made as to their quality or veracity! We've also put the six big areas that we discussed into a table of contents at the very beginning, (in case you wanted to jump right to a particular section), otherwise at the end of each section is a link to the next, (so that they are all connected from start to finish). While there is a lot of overlap between some of these issues, we tried not to be too repetitive in our analysis. So, without further ado, we present the Unofficial *The Verdict* Webpage --

## Background

In *The Verdict*, Paul Newman plays Frank Galvin, a hard-drinking attorney who is definitely down on his luck. After a drinking binge that ends with Mr. Galvin throwing up in his sink and trashing his office, his friend Mickey Morrissey finds him passed out on the floor and has to remind him that he has to go to court in ten days. Not only is he woefully unprepared to try this case, he has only contacted his clients once in eighteen months, even though he actually does have a good case.

Mr. Galvin is representing Deborah Ann Kaye, who is in a permanent coma as a result of being given the wrong anesthetic in the delivery room. Since Deborah Ann has been abandoned by her husband, her interests are being looked out for by her sister and brother-in-law, the Donahees. On their request, and Deborah Ann's behalf, Mr. Galvin sues the big powerful Catholic hospital and two well-respected doctors for the permanent injuries she has suffered. The hospital and doctors are represented by Ed Concannon, who is a

member of a large and well-established law firm that seems to have endless resources to try this case.

From the beginning of the movie, the viewer quickly realizes that this is not just a simple medical malpractice case. This case represents what may be the last chance for Mr. Galvin to prove to the world, and more importantly to himself, that he can be a successful attorney. In order to accomplish these goals, he is forced to overcome his alcohol dependency, an obviously biased judge, vanishing witnesses, huge evidentiary gaps, and finding out that his girlfriend has been a paid informant for the opposing counsel.

Although Galvin survives this trial by fire and is vindicated by the jury's verdict, it may be a bittersweet victory in light of the high moral and ethical costs that he has had to pay to win...

## Ethical Issues Discussed

● <a href="#">Alcohol-Related Issues</a>	● <a href="#">Issues Involving the Clients</a>	● <a href="#">The Defense Team</a>
● <a href="#">Judicial Misconduct</a>	● <a href="#">Pre-Trial/Discovery Issues</a>	● <a href="#">Conflicts of Interest</a>
	● <a href="#">Conclusion</a>	