

# Bailiff

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

- ACTOR 1:  
The Bailiff (Mr. Connolly)
- ACTOR 2:  
Judge Stanchfield R. Pearson
- ACTOR 3:  
Solomon Rothschild
- ACTOR 4:  
Ebenezer Scrooge
- ACTOR 5:  
Bob Cratchit  
Jacob Marley
- ACTOR 6:  
Fred  
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
- ACTOR 7:  
Mrs. Cratchit  
Sara Wainwright  
Mrs. Dilber  
The Translator
- ACTOR 8:  
Ghost of Christmas Past  
Fan  
Belle

## ACT I

*(Lights up on a courtroom. Judge's bench, witness stand, two tables with chairs. Lit sconces hang on the wall. MR. CONNOLLY, the BAILIFF, prepares the room for the trial. He half-sings, half-hums "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." He takes a big shovelful of coal from the coal box and puts it in the stove. Presently, JUDGE PEARSON, the newly crowned King of Humbug, enters.)*

**START** \_\_\_\_\_

BAILIFF. Good morning, Your Honor.  
JUDGE PEARSON. What's good about it?  
BAILIFF. It's snowing, it's Christmas Eve, there's joy in the air—  
JUDGE PEARSON. It was a rhetorical question.  
BAILIFF. Oh... Big trial starts today.  
JUDGE PEARSON. I am well aware of that fact.  
BAILIFF. The papers are calling it the trial of the century.  
JUDGE PEARSON. The papers should concern themselves with news and not sensationalism.  
BAILIFF. Everyone in the world will be following this trial.  
JUDGE PEARSON. Everyone should find something better to do.  
BAILIFF. But—

JUDGE PEARSON. This trial is a waste of time, Mr. Connelly. My time. I do not like to waste my time. And to make matters worse, I will be forced to suffer the sickening sweet courtroom proceedings of Mr. Rothschild.

BAILIFF. The people like him.

JUDGE PEARSON. The people don't have to tolerate him on a daily basis. "Would you please state your full name for the court. Catherine Harrington. Mrs. Harrington, may I call you Catherine?" Mark me, every witness.

BAILIFF. He's just doing his job.

JUDGE PEARSON. As should you. *(The JUDGE opens the door of the coal stove...)* As for Mr. Rothschild, I wish he'd do his job somewhere else. I find him to be an annoyingly doltish irritant in my courtroom. *(...takes the shovel...)*

BAILIFF. I haven't heard who's representing Mr. Scrooge.

JUDGE PEARSON. He's representing himself. *(...removes most of the coals...)*

BAILIFF. Why?

JUDGE PEARSON. Because he's cheap. *(Exits into his chambers.)*

*(SOLOMON ROTHSCHILD, from the law firm of Rothschild, Steinberg and Jacobson, enters. Confident, affable and sincere. EBENEZER SCROOGE, mean, angry and bitter, enters. They sit at the two tables.)*

BAILIFF. All rise. The Honorable Stanchfield R. Pearson.

*(JUDGE PEARSON, clad in a robe and white wig, enters. He takes his seat and raps his gavel.)*

JUDGE PEARSON. Be seated. Court is now in session. Entered on this 24th day of December, 1844, by Ebenezer Scrooge, a complaint of attempted murder, kidnaping, breaking and entering, trespassing, stalking, slander, theft, pain and suffering and the intentional infliction of emotional distress against Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. How do your clients plead, Mr. Rothschild?

SOLOMON ROTHSCHILD. Not guilty, Your Honor.

JUDGE PEARSON. Very well. Opening remarks. Mr. Scrooge.

*(SCROOGE rises.)*

SCROOGE. Bah humbug. *(SCROOGE sits down.)*

JUDGE PEARSON. That's it? That's your opening?

SCROOGE. Yes. That's what I think of Mr. Marley and his hooligan friends. Bah humbug.

JUDGE PEARSON. Mr. Scrooge, perhaps if you reconsidered legal representation—

SCROOGE. I'm capable of representing myself.

JUDGE PEARSON. Very well. Mr. Rothschild.

*(ROTHSCHILD rises.)*

SOLOMON ROTHSCHILD. Merry Christmas.

SCROOGE. Objection.

JUDGE PEARSON. Mr. Scrooge, you may not object during Mr. Rothschild's opening statement.

SCROOGE. I find the phrase "Merry Christmas" objectionable.

**END**