

The scene: A courtroom, three days into the trial of an action seeking to have a will declared invalid. Patty Prevaricator is opposing the attempt. She is the sole surviving spouse and under the will, takes everything. The objectants are relatives who take nothing under the will, but a small portion of the estate under intestacy statutes.

Patty's Attorney: One more question, Patty – do you have any children?

Patty Prevaricator: Oh, gosh, no.

Patty's Attorney: Thank you, Patty. Nothing further, Your Honor.

The Judge: Seeing as its 12:30, how about we break for lunch. Objectants' counsel can commence cross-examination at 2 p.m.

Next scene: The local trattoria, where Patty and her lawyer are lunching. As the main dishes are delivered, a man, wearing a wedding band and attended by three children, all under the age of 7, including one toddler, come up. The three children start to scream "Mommy" and all clamor to be picked up by Patty.

The scene: An attorney's conference room. Two lawyers and their respective clients are sitting around the table, engaging in contract negotiations.

Sam the Seller: Okay, the last thing on your due diligence checklist is pending litigation. I promise you, Sam's Safety Singlets has NEVER been sued. We pride ourselves on that.

Bob the Buyer: Sam, now that we have finally gotten all the documents we requested in due diligence, my lawyers and financial people have to go over the information. I don't think there is any point in going further until they sign off – you know how lawyers can be about the details. How does everyone's calendar look for next Tuesday at 11 am? Can we meet then to continue this process?

All parties: Sure.

Next scene: Sam the Seller's lawyer, Kate Katchitt, is in her office later that day. In the course of doing research for another client, she comes across dockets for not one, but six lawsuits against Sam's Safety Singlets filed in the last 4 years.