Advocate Attorney for Offender

When you are assigned to represent the offender in a case, you will be given the Complaint form that the complainant filled out and the form that the offender filled out. You will also receive a report on the offender’s grades and attendance if appropriate. Read them over carefully before meeting your “client” to see if you need to ask them for clarification on what happened.

When you get the student offender out of class, politely tell the teacher that you need to speak with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a couple of minutes regarding a Youth Court Complaint.

When student comes out, introduce yourself and tell them you have been assigned to be their advocate attorney in court. Tell them that you will speak first in court and explain the situation to the jury if they want you to. In order to do that, tell the person that you will need to be able to say that they are sorry and understand the harm they did. However, say that you will also explain the circumstances that led them to do it, so the jury can take that into account.

Then ask them anything you need clarification on. Ask them to think about what they could do to repair the harm that was done. This may be difficult! Use positive peer pressure, especially if it is a younger student, and try to convince the student, if necessary, that we really want all the law academy students to get along and to graduate and be successful. Show empathy, but be firm. Everyone gets overly angry or frustrated at times, but convince them that there’s a right way to deal with it.

Tell the student the court date (decided by complainant) and write it down for them. Ask if they know where the courtroom is. Ask if they want you to come and get them on the date.

Explain the court process to them: Let them know that the jury will ask questions and be the ones to make the decisions. Explain that the goal is to repair the harm done and to bring some understanding to the situation. It is not meant to simply punish students. Put them at ease! Assure them that you will help them!