

To the Bag

enjoyed telling their stories, and the jokes didn't seem as bad in hindsight as they had at the time and were usually amusing to the rest of us. Then, the clincher: "Mr/Ms X, did you file a lawsuit when that happened?" The first time he asked the question, the respondent looked shocked, and everybody in the room laughed. By the third time he asked it, the case was over.

When it was the plaintiff's lawyer's turn, his ice-breaker was "Please raise your hand if you or anyone in your family has been infected with the virus that causes AIDS." This question didn't generate much response from the venire, but it did substantiate something else he had just told us: This was the first case he had ever tried.

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FAT LIVER & BEER

To the Bag:

In Professor Kahn's article on *voir dire*, the first footnote indicates that in New York, it is pronounced like "fois gras and beer." I suspect the author meant to say "fat liver and beer" rather than "fat time and beer." Compare www.wordreference.com/fren/foie with www.wordreference.com/fren/fois. Although, given the empty calories from drinking beer, it might indeed be considered "fat time." Or perhaps this is a regional spelling variant – that is, that in Texas French "foie" is spelled "fois."

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