

Dilemma 3: The Stolen Goods

You represent a client charged with receiving stolen goods. Your client was found by the police with a stolen TV set on the back seat of his car. Your client tells you that the reason that the TV was on the back seat of his car and not in the boot of the car was that his car boot is jammed shut and does not open. You have strong reasons for believing that your client did not know that the TV set was stolen and is therefore innocent of knowingly receiving stolen goods.

You are appearing before a judge who is severe in his sentencing and know that there is only one tactic in your questioning that may convince the court that your client is innocent. This is to ask the arresting police officer: 'Tell me officer, if this TV set was stolen, why would my client place it on the back seat of his car and not in the boot of the car?'

