**SAMPLE BRIEF**

**Gray** (cop) v. **Martino** (crime victim)

**Procedural History**

* Cop sues for reward money.
* District court awards money to the cop.
* Defendant appeals.

**Issue**

At the time the contract was formed, was the plaintiff acting as a police officer charged with a legal duty to catch criminals without further reward?

**Facts**

* Plaintiff makes a verbal contract with defendant. In return for $500, plaintiff will find defendant's stolen jewels.
* Plaintiff had knowledge of whereabouts of jewels at contract formation.
* Plaintiff is a special police officer and has dealings with prosecutor's office.
* Defendant published advertisement for reward.
* Plaintiff finds stolen goods and arranges return.

**Rule of Law**

1. A public officer cannot demand or receive remuneration or a reward for carrying out the duty of his job as a matter of public policy and morality
2. However, it is not against public policy for a police officer to receive a reward in performance of his legal duty if the legislature passes a statute giving the reward to the public at large in furtherance of some public policy - such as preventing treason against the US.

**Reasoning**

* Court finds sufficient evidence to characterize this fellow as a public official.
* His interaction with the prosecutor's office weighed in as a factor in suggesting he had a legal duty.
* Since he is characterized within the rule as a public official, he cannot, as a matter of law, receive a reward for the performance of his duties.

**Holding**

Court reverses decision of lower court in favor of the plaintiff since he was characterized as a public official.