

Wilderness House Literary Review 4/3

Eric Blanchard
Repertory Justice

Smith v. the State again
today on the marquis docket,
another decade-old case.

Drab oak, maple
or walnut panels upstage the light, honored
with traditional props—

the books, the bailiff, the brunette
typing transcripts, and the yawning
of the jury.

A dark robe clings to the bony,
bifocal-ing, caffeine-driven director (the heartthrob),
stayed by impromptu lines,

tortious logic *ad nauseum*, reaching for gavel
at the close of applause—
another bifurcated encore.

Pin-striped costumes
in a choreographed side bar, plead, motion,
beckon for prompted verdict.

“Your honor, are these the legs of a murderess?”
Another gallery gasp, in unison.
Flash, camera, flash!

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Opinion:

Held over, mistrial, no
reversible error.

Clerk's note:

Place back on the docket
for rotation.