

This was the first time I have played the client role in as extensive of a simulation as this. This lengthier simulation afforded me the opportunity to really try to get the feel of the role and the experience of interacting with the lawyer multiple times in class, out of class, and through email. My previous experience with law school role play scenarios is that they usually consist of a 30 to 60 minute interaction between lawyer and client or lawyer and lawyer from beginning to end. Having been able to experience the client side of things in a more involved scenario, I've chosen to discuss the topic of the lawyer determining goals and interests most important to the client in this paper.

I don't recall any sympathy or empathy given by my lawyer, nor do I remember really talking about the basis for my interests. The results of this interview were that my lawyer did discuss how he felt we would likely win a lawsuit in the case of an undue influence charge concerning my mother's will and he did make me feel somewhat reassured that I wouldn't have too much to worry about with a law suit. Nevertheless, I did still worry about my familial relationship and hanging on to the house. Consequently, I also still felt kind of alone when it came to my reasons for wanting those two things. I wanted acknowledgment that my reasoning and feelings were just. I didn't really want to feel like I was stabbing my brother in the back over this will. In fact, I was beginning to wonder if my attorney understood what I really wanted.

Before this scenario, I truly didn't understand how serious of a need it is for a client to feel understood, sympathized with or empathized with, or the need to feel justified in their reasoning. Even though I was just pretending to be a client, I felt these needs and felt that they weren't getting fulfilled. I have a new sense of how I need to treat and acknowledge all of a client's needs. I understand that there will be times when I won't want to justify a client's feelings, but just letting the client know through sympathy or empathy can let him or her feel that the attorney is listening and recognizing their feelings and emotions. I believe this can help clients feel valued and also help maintain and increase an attorney's business.