

INT. SMALL COURTROOM - DAY

Wearing handcuffs and an ill-fitting suit, Bobby Satchel is led into court by a GUARD. The tiny courtroom is crowded, with too many cases to get through and not enough time. A baby CRIES intermittently.

The men stop at a table, where Bobby awkwardly shakes hands with his attorney -- Bill Ivanhov. Ivanhov points out Bobby's father Elias, who has driven up for the arraignment.

**4TH DISTRICT COURTHOUSE
FAIRBANKS**

With minimal staff, Judge ELLEN QIMIRPIK (40, Inuit) manages to run her courtroom efficiently, although much less formally than expected.

The BAILIFF calls out the case:

BAILIFF
People versus Bobby Satchel.

Harper stands up at the prosecutor's table.

HARPER
Alison Harper for the State.

IVANHOV
Bill Ivanhov representing Mr.
Satchel.

HARPER
Your honor...

QIMIRPIK
(heading her off)
Both of you, up here please.

Harper and Ivanhov approach the bench.

QIMIRPIK (cont'd)
(to Ivanhov)
You're a magistrate. You can't be
his attorney.

Ivanhov hands over a signed letter.

IVANHOV
I've resigned my commission,
effective this morning.

As Qimirpik looks through the document --

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HARPER

Your honor, Mr. Ivanhov was already involved in this case in an official capacity. If Mr. Satchel is ultimately convicted, he could have grounds for an appeal based on competing interest or inadequate representation.

IVANHOV

I intend to represent Mr. Satchel to my fullest ability.

Qimirpik sets down the letter.

HARPER

The State may need to subpoena Mr. Ivanhov to testify. Mr. Satchel has the right to unencumbered counsel.

QIMIRPIK

Mr. Satchel has the right to choose his attorney. For better or worse, he chose you. Let's get on with this.

Harper and Ivanhov head back to their respective tables. Elias Satchel eyes Harper with a look of cold contempt.

Qimirpik nods to Harper.

HARPER

Your Honor, the state intends to prosecute the defendant for the murder of Glenn Satchel, a resident of Delta Junction. Given the defendant's prior convictions for violent acts, his experience as a pilot and his access to aircraft, we believe he is a uniquely high risk for flight. We ask that bail be denied, and that he be bound over for trial in Anchorage.

IVANHOV

Your Honor, Bobby Satchel lives in the same house he was born in 25 years ago. His family has lived in this state more than 40 years. His elderly father relies on him.

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IVANHOV (cont'd)

There is zero risk of his going anywhere. Furthermore, the defense intends to show that this so-called murder was nothing more than an accident which has been horribly misportrayed by an overzealous State Trooper.

HARPER

Your Honor, already in the investigation of this crime, a law enforcement officer has been shot and killed.

IVANHOV

(interrupting)

Not by my client! My client was wrongly imprisoned at the time this officer was killed.

HARPER

The Trooper was killed while keeping watch over evidence in this case. We believe Mr. Satchel knows the identity of the killer, who was attempting to destroy the crime scene. That's two homicides with which he's involved.

IVANHOV

Nonsense!

QIMIRPIK

Enough. Mr. Satchel is bound over for trial in Superior Court in Anchorage. Bail is denied.

She BANGS her gavel.

[END OF SCENE]