

Gideon v. Wainwright
Conclusion of Re-Enactment
Clarence Gideon, Ending Monologue
(210 words)

After Gerald Gault finishes, Clarence Gideon returns to the well.

[He sits at a different counsel table with a pencil and paper. He looks up and says:]

My attorney Abe Fortas asked me to write down my story, so I wrote him a 22-page letter as honest as I could tell it.

I hope my kids read it someday so that they know what really happened to their old man. Here is the part I'd want them to remember about me:

[Gideon reads as he writes:]

“I always believed that the primary reason of trial in a court of law was to reach the truth. My trial was far from the truth.”

“There was not a crime committed in my case and I don't feel like I had a fair trial. If I had an attorney he coulda brought out all of these things in my trial.”

“I believe that each era finds an improvement in law. Each year brings something new for the benefit of mankind. Maybe this will be one of those small steps forward. In the past 35 years I have seen great advancement in penal servitude. Thank you for reading all of this. Please try to believe that all I want from life is the chance for the love of my children – the only real love I have ever had.”

And with that, I rest my case. The rest is history.