

INDICTMENT - AUDITION SIDES

ROLE: AUSA

SCENE: INT. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY

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A small courtroom with not enough people in it for a case this big.

Church sits at the defense table in county blues beside a public defender who already looks defeated.

Hot Shot at one table.

Baby and Young at another.

Jamal alone with a private attorney.

The AUSA lays out photos.

Bricks.

Weapons recovered from the cousins.

Prior history.

Flight risk.

Community danger.

All the words designed to cage men with no clean exit.

Judge DELGADO barely looks up.

He asks a few bored questions.

Pretends to listen.

Then starts cutting bond numbers so low the room almost laughs out loud.

The AUSA actually goes still.

AUSA

Your Honor, the government objects.

Strongly.

JUDGE DELGADO

Noted.

29.

AUSA

These defendants were apprehended during an active narcotics transfer with armed associates present.

JUDGE DELGADO

And none of those armed associates are before me in this moment.

Move on.

The AUSA tries again.

AUSA

This ruling is wildly out of range.

Delgado leans back.

JUDGE DELGADO

Then file what you need to file.

Bond set.

Gavel.

Done.

Church looks across the room at Jamal.

Jamal never breaks posture.

Never even pretends surprise.

Baby sees it too.

Hot Shot just looks relieved.

Young looks confused enough to be grateful.

Church feels the floor shift under everything.

CHURCH (V.O.)

That's when I stopped calling it
luck.

Judges don't move that fast for
people like us unless somebody
already called ahead.

CUT TO: