

PAAM Communications Briefing

January 11, 2017

Anatomy of a Community Relations Opportunity

DJ Hilson (Muskegon) used the opportunity afforded by a local film premiere to reach out to his community on prosecution and the criminal justice system.

The Heartland Independent Film Forum invited Hilson to attend their showing of *Anatomy of a Murder* (written by former Marquette County Prosecutor John Voelker) to talk about the differences between movie and real life.

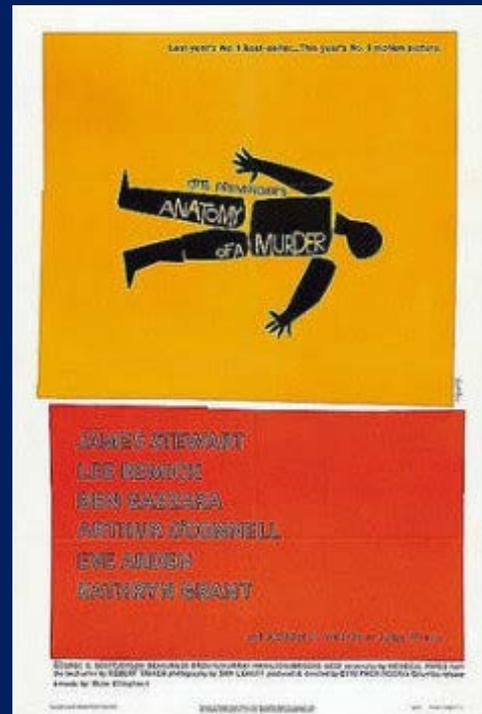
“This event is actually the second time I have done this presentation,” Hilson said. “It went so well last year that they did it again this year.”

At the end of the film Hilson drew from his own courtroom experience to shed light on how close the courtroom scenes in the movie were to actual courtroom action. “I opened it up to questions and was able to talk about how case law works in a trial, What we do during jury selection, and the relationship between the lawyers both in and out of the courtroom.”

Hilson also spoke about the impact today’s media has on a trial.

Approximately 70 people attended the showing. “Overall, it was a great opportunity to connect with a nice group of people to talk about what it means to be a prosecutor. I stressed the importance of a fair playing field and how we deal with issues that may not be favorable to our case (the rape issue in the movie as a motive to shoot the deceased) and that at the end of the day, good or bad, our job is to make sure justice is served.”

“I would strongly encourage my colleagues to take advantage of any opportunity they have to get in front of people to talk what we do and why we do it. You will find that some folks do have a perception of the office based on what they see in movies or on TV,” Hilson said.



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Anatomy of a Murder: Moviegoers receive true-crime lesson from county prosecutor

MUSKEGON, Mich. -- Moviegoers in Muskegon County received an interesting perspective on a true crime case out of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. On Sunday, a screening of Anatomy of a Murder was held at the Harbor Cinema. The film, which was shot in 1959, is based on the book written by Michigan Supreme Court Justice John D.

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