

A CUP OF COFFEE

Another cup of espresso please

I think you've had enough

What did you say?

You've had enough

Well who are you to make that determination?

I'm a barista

If you're a barrister you should be in court or chambers or whatever, so what are you doing serving coffee in a Costa Coffee shop?

I'm a barista

Well you haven't answered my question. Shouldn't you be defending or prosecuting someone in court not standing there in an apron?

Anyway I want another coffee

No You've had enough

And who are you to decide I've had enough?

I'm a barista and thus qualified to make that assessment and if you don't go I'll call the police

I want to speak to the manager

I am the acting manager

I thought you said you were a barrister. Now you say you're the manager

I'm the acting manager

Hang on are you saying you are an actor

No an acting manager

So where's the manager?

He's not here

But where is he?

He's in court

Why?

Well if you must know he's been accused of cooking the books

Doesn't he need a barrister to deal with that and defend him in court?

Yes

So why aren't you there?

Because I'm a barista

Anyway I want you to leave now

No

Then I'm going to call the police

Go ahead then call the police

Right Sir what appears to be the problem, the helmeted bobby asked?

This guy dressed up as a waiter who calls himself a barrister is refusing to serve me a coffee

Is that true the bobby asked the barista?

Yes he's already had 3 double espressos

Right Sir is that correct?

Yes

Well are you aware of the caffeine limit for pedestrians?

I didn't know there was a limit

Ignorance of the law is no defence

I'm not over the limit

Well that's for the police to determine Sir. I'm taking you to the station

Which station?

Charing Cross station

But I live in Luton, so I need to go to Paddington station

You're coming with me to Charing Cross

I want a solicitor

Soliciting is an offence

What do you mean?

Soliciting is illegal

But if you're going to charge me I need a solicitor

There's no charge it's free. I'm going to run you in and book you

What do you mean book me? It's the coffee shop manager whose been cooking the books

Don't change the subject. I'm going to charge you with being over the limit.

But you said you were running me in to book me

I'm going to book you at the station

But I've got a return ticket I don't need to book

Some time later

The bewigged judge in his usual dictatorial manner announced –

You are brought before me charged with being over the pedestrian caffeine limit in a coffee shop.

Do you plead guilty or not guilty?

I didn't know there was a caffeine limit

Guilty or not guilty?

I didn't know

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Are you being represented?

What do you mean?

Do you have a barrister?

No

Then I will appoint one for you. Is there a barrister in the court?

Yes I'm a barista

From what chambers?

I'm from Costa Coffee

What are you doing in this courtroom?

I'm a witness for the prosecution

Is there a legal barrister in the court?

Well it so happens I am also a qualified barrister as well. Whilst looking for suitable chambers to take me on, I happen to be working at Costa Coffee temporarily as a barista

Then I appoint you to represent the defendant

But I'm representing the crown as a witness

Well you'll just have to wear two hats

I don't have two hats

Don't be facetious or I'll hold you in contempt

But I'm not content I'm confused

Right I hereby sentence you to a 3 year ban from entering any coffee bars or court rooms in the UK for insubordination and of contempt of court

And the defendant I'm sentencing to 3 years confinement in a caffeine dependency clinic for attempting to consume another espresso whilst over the limit

This Court is hereby now adjourned

For a coffee break!

Jeremy Hosea April 2026