

Discussion Questions on Introduction to Jones v. Clinton

1. How did Paula Jones come into contact with her lawyer—and what motivated her to make that contact?
2. How do you figure she expected the law to solve her problem—what was her goal and desired solution?
3. How did Paula Jones' representative first reach out to President Clinton, and how did the defense representatives react—well or poorly?
4. Do you think this whole mess might have been avoided if President Clinton's lawyer had reacted differently? How might he have better served his client by solving this emerging problem?
5. Did Traylor, Jones's lawyer, seek to achieve her goal, or did he steer her toward a lawsuit that turned out to cause her more pain, as the legal system usually does?
6. What kind of settlement do you think the lawyer had in mind, and do you think that was Paula Jones's goal?
7. Does Traylor seem to have been intent on pursuing Jones's goals or something else? Do you think this was the right way to pursue Jones' goals?
8. When Davis and Cammarata took over Jones' defense, what were their first thoughts on the case, and what were their first actions? Why did they fly to Little Rock for interviews? Was this "discovery" that we heard about in our introduction?
9. Did Davis and Cammarata try to solve Jones's problem, to pursue Jones's goal, or did they blindly push forward toward a lawsuit?
10. Why did this settlement fall through if all Jones wanted was a simple statement—did the President not want to make the statement?
11. Do you think Davis served his client, Jones, by insisting on the tolled statute of limitations?
12. Do you think Bennet served his client, Clinton, well by refusing to settle in light of the demand for holding the suit in abeyance?
13. Who was most responsible for this entire episode moving forward, to no one's advantage but the lawyers, as we will ultimately see?
14. Can you imagine an alternative that might have worked for both parties?