

Polar Persuasion

Beverly Ray Burlingame

In rhetoric before the court,
Hyperbole abounds.
When lawyers are without retort,
Their certainty resounds.

“There’s not a shred of evidence!”
A lawyer’s quick to shout.
“The rule defies all common sense —
This court should throw it out.”

“No basis for that statement rests
In either law or fact.
My client’s side is clearly best;
The court must simply act.”

“My theory’s irrefutable!”
A lawyer will exclaim.
“This right remains immutable;
My client’s not to blame.”

Everything is black or white;
It’s never gray or faded.
All the world is wrong or right —
And all the judges jaded.