A Doctor on TV, and in the Courtroom

On TV, Bruno Campos played the roles of Dr. Quentin Costa on *Nip/Tuck*, Dr. Eddie Dorset on *ER*, and Dr. Charlie Casey on *Royal Pains*. This past September, he was cast in another role as a physician, but this time the stakes were much higher than with his previous characters.

Now a 1L at Michigan Law, Campos was asked by the Michigan Innocence Clinic to help with a case. In the trial of Julie Baumer (see related story, previous page), one of the physicians who had testified at a pretrial evidentiary hearing—Michael Krasnokutsky, a neuroradiologist with the U.S. Army—had been deployed to Iraq and could not be at the trial. He could have testified via Skype, but only if the prosecution agreed. They did not.

Since the prosecution’s refusal to permit Krasnokutsky to testify by video rendered him unavailable, Baumer’s attorneys were entitled to introduce Krasnokutsky’s prior testimony to the jurors. And since the dry written word would not be as effective as the spoken version, trial judges in this situation routinely allow parties to “re-enact” the prior testimony by having someone read the testimony of the missing witness aloud in the courtroom. Jurors would know that the person on the stand was not really the physician, but that he was reading his testimony verbatim.

“Jury members would be able to remind themselves that Bruno wasn’t the real Dr. Krasnokutsky,” Campos recalls. All of this raises a question: Why is Campos—who recently was the voice of the prince and the frog in the 2009 movie *The Princess and the Frog*—a law student in the first place? “I’ve had five mentors in my life: two professional artists and three lawyers. This influence was always there and I’ve sensed for years my internal magnet was leading me to law.”

And why Michigan Law? In part, he was swayed when he met Sarah Zearfoss, ‘92, assistant dean for admissions, at a University of Michigan event in Los Angeles. “She was an inspired communicator. It’s very hard to say no to her, in the best sense.”

Next up for Campos is an internship during the summer with U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn, ’49, in Detroit. What about a return to acting? That’s not in his plans, he says; he wants to focus on being the best lawyer he can be. Not that his acting career can ever completely be separated from his new endeavor; after all, when he wasn’t portraying doctors on television, he most often played lawyers.—KV