

1/JUDGE: This is a preliminary hearing to determine ownership of patent rights to the telephone. Five claims have been filed. You may begin.

2/LAWYER: Your honor, my client, Alexander Graham Bell, will present a review of his research and experimentation concerning the telephone. His telephone patent was the first granted, and all others should be considered void.

1/JUDGE: Mr. Bell, you have been summoned here from your summer home in Canada to defend your patent rights. You may produce witnesses, papers, and drawings to support your claim.

2/LAWYER: Mr. Bell, please begin with some personal background which explains your interest in the transmission of sound.

3/BELL: My father, who lived in Canada, was a speech teacher. I learned that profession from him and went to Boston to begin my work. I later became a U.S. citizen, although I reside in Canada during the summers.

2/LAWYER: What was the nature of your work?

3/BELL: I taught deaf people to speak by using my father's methods. Through my work with the deaf, I began experiments in the field of sound waves which cause vibrations in the eardrum.

4/MABEL: My husband taught speech during the day and worked on his inventions at night. I was one of his students. That was how we met. I have been deaf since childhood.

1/JUDGE: Your speech is excellent, Mrs. Bell.

4/MABEL: I had a good teacher. Alexander often visited in our home, to court me and to visit my father about business.

2/LAWYER: What was the business Mr. Bell had with your father?

6/HUBBARD: As her father, I should answer that question instead of my daughter. An associate and I invested money in Bell's research into a harmonic telegraph, but Bell and Watson began work on the telephone.

2/LAWYER: Mr. Watson was Mr. Bell's associate.

1/JUDGE: We need specific dates. Mr. Watson, can you remember when you met Bell?

5/WATSON: Yes, it was in 1874. I worked in an electrical shop, and inventors were always coming in and asking us to build models.

2/LAWYER: Why do you remember Mr. Bell and the date so clearly?

5/WATSON: I remember, because we had an unusual rapport. He had the ideas, but I had the knowledge of electrical engineering. He knew what he wanted to build, and I knew how to build it.