**Ethics vs. The Law: In-Class Essay**

The law can be tricky to understand. We generally express concern to those that break the law for common good. However, we criticize those that break it with no concern for others. The issue of morals and ethics constantly comes up when discussing the law. Your goal for this assignment is simple; prosecute or defend Jack Ross for his theft.

**Procedure:**

1. This is an individual assignment.
2. This assignment must be completed in-class
3. You are going to prosecute or defend this client.
   1. You must take the **opposite** viewpoint from your Human Rights Assignment
4. You must correctly cite the criminal code and use it as evidence to support your position

Scenario

*Jack Ross has been married for 10 years. He lives with his wife and two children (ages 6 and 4). Due to a physical ailment, his wife is unable to work. Surviving on one income, Jack only makes minimum wage. Below is the cost of Jack’s monthly payments.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Expense | Cost |
| Renting an Apartment | $1,500 (Monthly) |
| Electric, Heating and Basic Amenities | $300 (Monthly) |
| Car Payments (Gas, General Expenses) | $400 (Monthly) |
| Total | $2,200 |

*The above chart does not include other necessities such as refreshments, clothes and food. It does not include leisure activities such as restaurants and games. Jack earns a net income of $2,300 per month which only generates an additional $100 in spending. In September, Jack gets sick and misses a week of work. He was not provided with “sick days” and he missed being paid for a week. This means he will be unable to afford both his rent and any necessities whatsoever.*

*Jack visits a very popular grocery store called “Superfoods.” Jack kindly asks the owner if he can help him out this month and pay another time. The owner responds:*

*“Get out of my store. I do not want poor people shopping in my establishment.”*

*Frustrated and desperate, Jack steals some of his product and snatches $500 from the cash register when the cashier opens it for a transaction.*

*Jack returns home to his 500 square foot apartment which does not include a bedroom for either of his children (they sleep on bunkbeds in the living room). Shortly after, the police arrive and arrest Jack for a variety of crimes such as theft and uttering a threat. Though innocent of the second crime, the police find a weapon (Dagger) in Jack’s coat upon arrest. They add a third charge of “possessing a dangerous weapon.”*

*As the crown counsel or Jack’s attorney, your goal is to get him placed in prison or escape with minor infractions (community service, warning).*