

One Case, Four Lessons:

Miles v. City Council of Augusta,
551 F. Supp. 349 (S.D. Ga. 1982).
a.k.a. “*Blackie, the Talking Cat*”

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Lesson one: Headnotes Can Be Deceiving.

*“1. Taxing power is power of the state that is
delegated to municipality it creates.”*

Lesson Two: Footnotes Can Be Gold Mines.

*“It should be disclosed that I have seen and
heard a demonstration of Blackie’s abilities . . .
Held and stroked by the man Blackie said ‘I
love you’ and ‘I want my Mama.’ . . . I felt that
my dollar was well spent.”*

Lesson Three: Apply the Case Law By Analogy.

Analyze the legal issue by applying the law of the case to a hypothetical client's ten-year old daughter who wants to open a lemonade stand so that she can buy an ipod and make a donation to charity. Does she need a business license in Georgia?

Lesson Four: Introduction to Oral Arguments.

In small groups, students can formulate and articulate arguments for the city and arguments for the child, providing a risk-free experience with oral advocacy.

