



FILM: <b>THE JUDGE</b>
FDG RATING: 3.4 ☺☺☺☺
Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

**David Dobkin:** *Director,*  
**Robert Duvall:** *Actor: Judge Joseph Palmer*  
**Robert Downey Junior:** *Actor: Hank Palmer, son*

DATE: November 23, 2014

**DISCUSSION SUMMARY: THE JUDGE**

The film, *The Judge*, focuses on the tension in a dysfunctional, estranged father son relationship. Excellent performances by Robert Downey Junior as Hank Palmer, bad boy turned good, although now he has the reputation of a big city, reckless defense attorney with clients who have done awful things; and by Robert Duvall as his strict, cold, unemotional father, Judge Joseph Palmer, suspected of murder in a hit and run accident, in their small Indiana town. *The Judge* is keeping his medical condition a secret but episodes of memory loss are obvious, a result of chemotherapy for cancer, and his condition deteriorates quickly. Both characters initially resort to their dysfunctional relationship, the Judge refuses to have his son represent him, but after a disastrous preliminary hearing, the Judge relaxes his resistance. The legal process exposes family conflicts from the past and aids in healing the broken relationship between Hank and his father.

Although only a handful of our resident critics saw the film, most liked the film, thought it was entertaining, applauded the acting, and related to the characters, some noted the family relationships were similar to their own. Others were bothered that the various story lines weren't resolved and criticized the bloated plot.

Our verdict for the film was 3.4 (5 is the best on a scale of 1 to 5).



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See you at the movies!

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