WHO IS RUNNING THIS SHOW?

When I worked at a printing shop in Abilene, Texas customers would come in and order posters, business cards and circulars for sales events at grocery and department stores.

One day, a traveling salesman came in and ordered 500, 8x10 cards that read “The Boss May Not Always be Right, But He Is Always The Boss.” The salesman gave them out to the customers he called on. Almost every small business in Abilene had one.

The client may not always be right, but he is always the client. Right or wrong, the client makes the final decision on the following:

1. Plea of Guilty or Plea of Not Guilty
2. Court Trial or Jury Trial
3. To testify or not to testify
4. If a guilty verdict is rendered, the client decides to go to the Judge or Jury for punishment
5. To file a Motion for New Trial or Appeal
6. Whether to Concede Guilt

To save headache down the road, the better practice is to get all these things documented by having the client sign.

For example: “I am Perry Mason, Accused Citizen and my lawyer Matlock has advised me I have a right to testify or not testify. I understand this and I want to (testify) (not testify)”