Quercus Alba

“He who is Above the Law”



“The arm of the law is powerless before me!”

Lore:

Quercus Alba is the overarching mastermind and antagonist of the Ace Attorney Investigations: Miles Edgeworth game. He was a former general of Cohdopia, and widely recognised as a hero there, stated to have saved the Royal Family from danger there multiple times, eventually leading to him acquiring the position of foreign ambassador. After events caused Cohdopia to split into two new states- Babahl and Allebast, he served as the foreign ambassador of the latter. He was able to serve for more than ten years, while keeping his true identity a secret.

Utilising his position, Alba was able to run an international smuggling ring of incredible influence and scale, and abused his control over the courts for this matter. While Alba was ambassador, and prior to being suspected of the events of Turnabout Ablaze, he would deliberately pose as a frail old man, who was incredibly harsh on himself, going so far as to beat himself when things went somewhat wrong in his embassy to avoid suspicion.

A/N: Even though he is the head of the smuggling ring, it is rather difficult to discern how many plans are his and not that of his subordinates (e.g. Calisto Yew's actions in Turnabout

Reminisce)- even if we know he ordered them, thus it's not possible to credit him for them entirely. Fortunately, since Turnabout Ablaze is easily the strongest in terms of SCD and is quite literally his plan entirely, this doesn't matter nearly as much.

(social awareness, influence (+building), resource management, leadership, social engineering, cunning, perseverance, determination, composure, knowledge, experience, mass/social manipulation, mass deception, non-verbal deception, acting skills, disguise, concealment)

Turnabout Ablaze - Plan:

Quick Context: Manny Coachen, Alba's second-in-command in the smuggling ring who was promoted to assistant ambassador of Babahl, had organised an event at the embassy where the two statues (sacred treasures) were to be tested for their legitimacy (the two claim to have a real one). Alba (and Coachen) is aware that Allebahst's statue is real due to the Babahl's statue being used for the counterfeiting of bills in the Smuggling Ring's operation, provided things go smoothly and this is revealed as planned, it should elevate Alba's position in future dealings between the two countries, HOWEVER, Alba

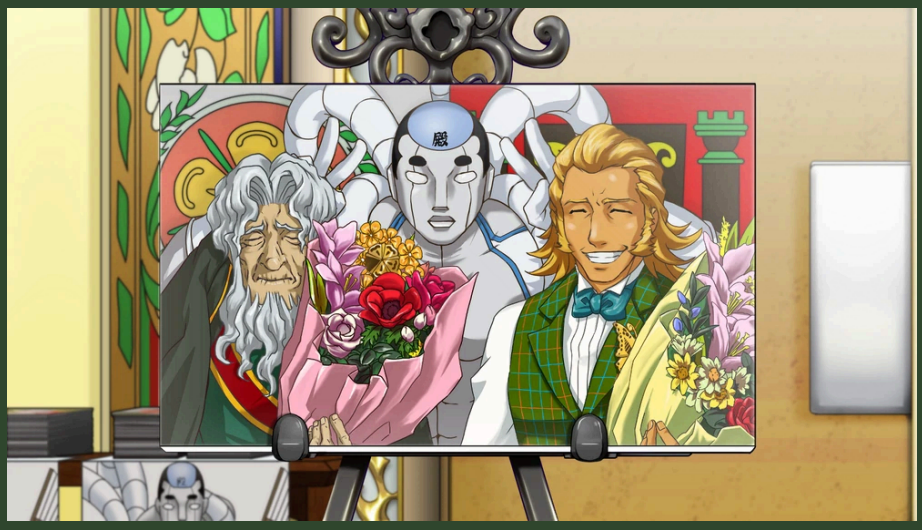
discovers Coachen's plot to betray Alba, as he hires a thief to steal the Allebahst statue and thus place Palaeno (the Babahl ambassador) at a higher bargaining position in dealings - increasing the likeliness of him becoming the foreign ambassador of a reunited Cohdopia, in an attempt to usurp Alba. Alongside this, Babahl's offices were going under renovations at this time, which could ruin Alba's operations.

To prevent this, Alba formulates a plan to scapegoat Coachen as the head of the ring, destroy all evidence, and kill Coachen in one sweep. To begin this plan, Alba sent out a Yatagarasu calling card to the media claiming that the Yatagarasu (a Great Thief) would steal the embassy's greatest secrets - this achieves two things:

- It allows Alba to pin the blame and scapegoat the Yatagarasu for his plan.
- It brings interpol to the embassy, where Shih-na/Calisto Yew (Alba's spy) is stationed allowing him to enlist her in the plan.

During the Steel Samurai show in the event, Alba confronts Coachen in the dressing room, deliberately using an ornamental knife unique to Allebahst. The two fight and Coachen manages to stab Alba with the Yatagarasu's key, Alba finishes him off swiftly and dumps his body into the Steel

Samurai's prop pushcart, Alba then removes all evidence within the room of the scuffle (Interpol, headed up by Shi-Long Lang, confirm there is no evidence present). To get rid of the weapon, he placed it into a bouquet of flowers.



(the gold flower in his bouquet)

After the scheduled photo with the Samurai and Palaeno, he followed the Steel Samurai into Allebahst's embassy where they pushed the prop cart with Coachen's corpse in (naturally, they were unaware of this as it had been covered). He had the Samurai leave the prop cart in the Rose Garden as he was scheduled to give a speech there later. Following this he went to his office to have a photo op with the Samurai and then invited Franziska von Karma to talk.

Following that, Alba had Shih-na set fire to the Babahl embassy, and returned to the Rose Garden, pushing the prop cart into the garden pool (on Allebahst's side) and having her jump into the pool in the Babahl embassy (mind you, thanks to renovations, this pool was covered completely and Edgeworth and co. were unaware of the existence of this pool to begin with). The plan was to utilise the pool's special mechanics, firstly, the pools would be drained (as they were connected - this is something only a few people knew due to the bilateral nature of the building) thanks to the fire, thus allowing Shih-na to retrieve the corpse in Allebahst from Babahl and then to use the fountain's taps to refill the pools, so Shih-na could clamber out of the pool (this is especially important as without the knowledge of the taps, the pool is too deep to even consider someone being able to climb up and down).

To secure the evidence of the counterfeiting, Alba created a contraption back in his office utilising his ceiling fan and crossbow, wrapping a wire around the ceiling fan and shooting the wire attached to support sticks from his passionflowers to Babahl's secretariat office (Coachen's office) so Shih-na could complete the loop using the wire on the ceiling fan of Coachen's office. This allowed them to create a system to swap the two statues, (the fake/one used for counterfeiting would be brought to Alba, and the real one would be brought to Babahl).

To ensure that the two statues weren't recognised or seen during transport, Shih-na dressed up the statue in a black cloth,

The thief that Coachen had hired suddenly barged into the office, Alba struck him with the fake statue and killed him instantly. Following this, Alba smeared the Samurai sword that had been left in his office with the thief's blood to frame him, however, he also knew of the possibility of being caught and thus smeared his own blood (from his wound against Coachen) on a pair of shears so that in the case where he was caught regardless, he could plead justified self-defence.
FURTHERMORE, his excuse for hiding the crime is simple as he is a foreign ambassador and naturally any sort of murder could be seen as a scandal.



To finish his crime and pin the blame onto the Yatagarsu for Coachen's murder, he set up the spotlights in the rose garden in a special way utilising statues to create the shadow of the Yatagarasu. Thus when his speech began and the shadow appeared, the attendees would panic, and knock over the spotlights while fleeing, indirectly removing the source of the shadow. Just after this, Shih-na set fire to the Babahl embassy once more having finished dumping Coachen's corpse in his office.

She then lured Kay Faraday by disguising herself with a coat and ran into the room where Coachen's corpse lay, quickly using the chaos of the fire to use a secret exit behind the fireplace and circle around, to make it look as though she had found Faraday at the scene of the crime, allowing her to arrest her.



(VSI, EM/EE, resource management, leadership, cunning, indirect manipulation, event manipulation, misdirection, fabrication, strategic deception, scapegoating, concealment, information control, smearing, short term planning, planning contingency, formulation, intricacies, tactics, invincibility, pragmatic + creative + strategic + fast thinking, anticipation, setting traps, trap evasion, strategy, short-term strategy + fortitude + logistics + orchestration + complexity + adaptability + resilience, anticipation)

Turnabout Ablaze - Arguments/Investigations:

Following his plan, Miles Edgeworth (who was present at the Babahl embassy) begins his investigations, clearing Kay Faraday of the crime. Alba would first appear during an argument between Miles and Shi-Long Lang, refusing the former access to Allebahst to investigate. However, following Paleano's convincing, Alba allowed him in (in hindsight, this is clearly done to protect his disguise and had Alba repeatedly refused access to his embassy, it may attract unwanted suspicion).

After Shih-na was exposed by Edgeworth to be a spy for the smuggling ring, Alba quickly used this to shut down Interpol and Edgeworth's investigation into Allebahst, utilizing the existence of a spy in Interpol's ranks to call into question their competence and claiming that he didn't want this investigation to further ruin the event that was to celebrate the countries' reconciliation.

To counter this, Lang accused Franziska of the thief's murder in Allebahst, by doing this, Alba was unable to refuse access to the investigation without damning himself into suspicion, plus since he'd already set up the bloodied sheers and his wound from Coachen, he knew it'd be fine if they discovered the truth and thus allowed them to investigate.

Edgeworth was able to discern the statue swapping trick and named Alba as the head of the ring and the thief's true killer, using a video from the KG-8 incident, here Alba flexed his extraterritorial rights (meaning he has the rights to be tried in his own country's court) as a foreign ambassador, revealing his wound and the sheers, exclaiming that he would simply plead self-defence in court since it had come to that.



Following this, Alba prepares to leave, now completely barring Edgeworth from investigating Allebahst. However, Paleano appears to request him to remain, Alba does due to his confidence in his plan, and the fact that leaving may damage his reputation as ambassador, thus he begins his argument with Edgeworth:

“Frankly, I still don't understand why I am being placed under suspicion here. Under your hypothetical scenario, Mr. Coachen and I were fellow smugglers. In that case, what motive would I have had to kill my co-conspirator? But to get to the point, I was in Allebahst the whole time. So, it's simply not possible for me to have killed him in Babahl. That is my alibi.”

This argument both uses careful wording to avoid admitting anything, and utilises Edgeworth’s lack of evidence. Following

this, Edgeworth proves a possible motive - however, again, is unable to progress with the murder itself.

“>Edgeworth: If you want to know, I believe you did have a motive to kill. It was because Mr. Coachen had betrayed you. But you had your own reason, too. Namely, you wanted to pin the smuggling all on him. Evil begets evil, and because you were trying to test each other, it turned into this mess!

>Alba: Objection

>Alba: I don't believe this. You have a bad penchant for telling tall tales, Mr. Prosecutor. And if you're not, then I suppose you have some proof to support your argument?

>Edgeworth: I never use guesswork in moving my cases forward. It has been proven that this note was written by Mr. Coachen's hand. Shall we take a look at it? The content of the note is a request calling for the theft of Allebahst's Primidux Statue.

>Alba: ...Hmph.

>Edgeworth: By killing him and pushing all of the guilt for the smuggling onto him, you walk away spotless. I believe you

understand what I'm driving at. You had more than a few reasons to kill him.

>Alba: Objection

>Alba: Are you finished with your hypothesizing?

>Edgeworth: Excuse me?

>Alba: Let's suppose I did have a motive. Even so, a motive or a thought alone can't kill. Isn't that right?

>Edgeworth: (I didn't expect him to resort to playing the semantics game with me... It appears that this is where the real battle will begin...!)

>Alba: Now then, if you will excuse me...

>Edgeworth: Wait--!? What!?

>Alba: I told you at the very beginning, didn't I? You only get one question.

>Edgeworth: Arngh.....!

>Palaeno: ...Ambassador Alba, if you could please give us just a little bit more of your time. It doesn't matter what kind of man Manny was, he was my subordinate. Which is why I would like for us to figure out the real cause of his death.

>Alba: That is something for Babahl to figure out, and something to which I have no relation to."

Following this, Alba prepares to leave. Kay Faraday quickly tries to threaten Alba, revealing her father's old notebook- she then bluffs using the notebook and "Little Thief" (her father's thievery tool), claiming that there's damning evidence for Alba, and that he would have to continue his argument with Edgeworth if he didn't want her to send it straight to the courts. Initially, Alba sees through the notebook, but following her claims that her father had used the tool to steal decisive evidence, he relents, however prefacing his argument with this:



He then begins:

“The last time I met with Mr. Coachen was here at the Theatrum Neutralis. After that, I was in Allebahst the rest of the time, as I stated earlier. In any case, I did not see Mr. Coachen again after that. So you see, there is no time span in which I could've killed him. Wouldn't you agree?”

The argument is deliberately vague, however Edgeworth presents the commemorative photo that shows the bouquet Alba hid the knife in, claiming that Alba used that knife to kill Coachen in the theatre - not in Babahl or Allebahst.

Alba laughs and prepares to leave, no longer interested in continuing the argument. He announces he will never return to this country, and thus will never be tried or punished.



Unfortunately at this moment, Agent Lang returns, revealing that Alba has been stripped of his ambassador title- removing his extraterritorial rights. For a brief moment, Alba breaks, going into shock at having his position ripped away, although he quickly recovers and laughs, despite no longer having those rights- the group still lack any evidence to have him convicted.

“Heh heh heh heh... You say that I killed Mr. Coachen in the theater. But even if it's true that there was a knife in my bouquet... ...I left that bouquet in the theater. So anyone could've taken it out from there and used it, right? Besides, the claim that he was killed here itself is odd. After all, wasn't his body discovered in Babahl? Are you claiming that I carried his body all the way over there? Hmph, preposterous!”

Edgeworth hypothesizes that Coachen’s corpse was moved using the pushcart, as the security camera displays the Steel Samurai pushing the cart with an unnatural shape in it. Despite hitting the nail on the head, Alba points out that Edgeworth has no evidence of this, preparing to leave, however, Gumshoes suddenly arrives, having recovered the push cart from the stage, inside blood is discovered- Edgeworth uses it as proof that Alba killed Coachen and had the Samurai unknowingly bring the corpse into Allebahst.

Alba counters, claiming that he would've had no reason to do that, further still, since the corpse was discovered in Babahl, Edgeworth had no way of proving that he had moved the corpse from Allebahst to Babahl, pointing out that the security is too tight to smuggle a corpse.

Alba testifies to his movements after the commemorative photo was taken:

"After I returned to Allebahst, I had my picture taken with the Steel Samurai, shaking hands. Then, just as I was about to start my speech, the Yatagarasu appeared. I feared for the national treasures, so I raced back to my office."

After pressing, Edgeworth is unable to discover anything contradictory, and Alba prepares to leave once more- AGAIN, he gets interrupted by the arrival of the Steel Samurai and the Pink Princess (played by Larry Butz and Wendy Oldbag respectively).

Butz had brought the "Iron Infant" (a mascot doll apart of the Steel Samurai franchise) claiming that he found him in Babahl, soaked in water- Butz also notes he'd spent the entire time in Allebahst and was completely shocked as to how the Infant had

winded up in Babahl considering he thought he'd lost him in the rose garden (of Allebahst).

Thanks to this, Edgeworth realises the bilateral symmetry means there's a pool in Babahl as well- the two must connect and that could create a potential smuggling route.

"**>Alba: Objection**

>Alba: Avoiding the topic with a vague answer like that is unbecoming of a prosecutor. If you don't mind, I'd like to see more physical proof, if you have any.

>Edgeworth: The Iron Infant is positively soaked in water. Why do you think that is? It's because he was fished out of a pool, and not just any pool; it was the Babahlese one. I think it's pretty obvious at this point what must be true. The water reservoirs in the two courtyards are connected!

>Alba: Objection

>Alba: And where is your proof that the two sides are connected!?

>Edgeworth: Objection

>Edgeworth: The proof is right there before your eyes; the half-drowned Iron Infant!

>Alba: Wh...!? Th.....This blasted doooooooooll!"

Lang jumps in, pointing out the flaw in Edgeworth's reasoning- the doll passing through makes sense as it's small, but an entire corpse is unlikely. Edgeworth points out Shih-na as an accomplice in Babahl, however Alba points out that there's no way she could swim through the pipe to collect the corpse without drowning.

"It looks like your hypothesis about how the body was moved is still only half-baked. In the end, it's all just the befuddled musings of an accusatory man. Now then, I believe you should give up and allow me passage. Because, from the start, there was no feasible method of transporting the body!"

Edgeworth realises that thanks to the fires, the water would be drained and explains that she could get into the pool and then collect the corpse- following this to get out of the pool, Alba would turn on the taps so she could climb out.

Here's Edgeworth's own explanation:

“Edgeworth: The water level in the pools can be controlled by opening and closing the spouts. Ms. Shih-na and the body were lifted upward by their buoyancy in water. The fire on the Babahlese side, and the fire fighting effort... These were set in motion all for the sake of smuggling Mr. Coachen's body!

>Alba: .....Gnnnnnnrk!

>Edgeworth: Shall I show you where the final destination of my train of logic leads!? First, Mr. Alba closed the fountain spouts in advance, in preparation of things to come. Then, he took the pushcart that was brought to the rose garden... and pushed it, along with the Iron Infant and Mr. Coachen's body, into the pool. At this time, Ms. Shih-na was busy conveniently starting the first fire in Babahl. She then made for the open-air stage's pool to wait for the fire fighting effort to begin. When the firefighters used the water in that pool, the water level went down... ...and by the time the fire was put out, the pipe between the two pools was exposed. This is when she pushed the pushcart from Allebahst into Babahl. Once that was accomplished, Mr. Alba simply opened the fountain spouts once more... ...and the water level rose up to its original level, along with Ms. Shih-na and the body. After that, Ms. Shih-na used the pushcart to carry the body up to the secretariat's office. There is an elevator in the

embassy, after all. So you see... ...even with her small frame, she could've easily transported Mr. Coachen's body. And that wraps up my thorough explanation of how the body was moved!"

Alba requests proof of this, Edgeworth reveals a pick- something that Alba had unfortunately overlooked due to its small nature. It's actually a piece of the murder weapon/knife that had been used to kill Coachen, which had been discovered in Babahl. Edgeworth notes it probably broke off and accidentally made its way into the pushcart along with his corpse.

Even after all this, Alba objects once more, claiming Edgeworth still doesn't have the perfect argument. Edgeworth requests Alba to testify once more regarding the events before the murder, he agrees and begins:

"I watched from the last row. The stage was well-lit, but it was dark out in the audience. I swear I was there in the audience, but it's hard to prove that, I suppose. I do remember the contents of the show very well, though. Is that proof enough for you? Those moving scenes were seared into this old man's heart. I'll never forget them."

Alba's testimony is initially watertight, however Edgeworth presses Alba on the "moving scenes" to which Alba says the Samurai's special attack - this however was a mistake as the move he named was never performed due to a last minute change following Butz's breaking of the Samurai Spear.



Edgeworth notes the attack was never performed, and Alba quickly backtracks, saying he'd left his seat to go to the bathroom and must have just missed the attack, and had watched the rest of the show otherwise- simply getting the name of the attack wrong, was naturally not enough to convict him on anything.

Unfortunately again, Butz jumps in, claiming that Alba must be a true Samurai fan since he knew the name of the unused attack, which had been kept a secret by everyone involved. Alba tries

to shut him up, and attempts to excuse himself- however, Edgeworth has already caught on.

“>Alba: Hah! So now you're trying to bully me, huh? There are no implications to be read into a behind-the-scenes story of a kids' show!

>Lang: NOTSOFAST

>Lang: Don't even think about trying to slither your way out of this, Quercus Alba.

>Edgeworth: You were the one who said it yourself, that the name of the move was... ..."Early Summer Rain Jab". But that name was only decided upon right before the show was about to start.

>Alba: So? Just what are you driving at?

>Lang: That the name of the move you told us was never used in the show or said aloud!

>Alba: .....

>Edgeworth: Now then, would you care to tell us about how you found out the name of that move?”

Edgeworth claims the only time Alba could’ve found out was if he’d seen the move written on the dressing room whiteboard- Kay points out that the pushcart was present in there and it’s possible that the dressing room itself was the scene of the crime, Alba covers this up by saying he’d gone in there by accident while searching for the bathroom.

“Alba: I believe I told you earlier that I went to the bathroom. Well, I got lost when I did. I wanted to ask for directions but when I opened the dressing room door, no one was inside. And that's when I saw the name of the move on the white board.”

Here Edgeworth tries to have the dressing room investigated in an attempt to find proof that he had been in there and had been killed, however Lang reveals that Interpol had already completely searched it and found nothing. Alba tries to leave (AGAIN) when suddenly Wendy jumps in, trying to give Edgeworth a Samurai Dog. Edgeworth deduces that the hinomaru fan on the box was not supposed to be there as none of the others have it, claiming it must be a stray drop of blood.

A quick note before we continue, the Samurai Dogs had been confiscated by Allebahst's Embassy Staff- Wendy had only managed to get this one by stealing it, so Alba did attempt to account for this, but unfortunately failed.

They have it analysed, and Alba tries to point out that even if the blood is Coachen's it doesn't prove Alba was the killer (I assume this was done to dissuade the analysis). However, after it is complete, the blood is revealed to be not of the victim- it's actually unknown. Alba then retorts that all the blood has done is prove his words:

"**>Alba: The ones where I said that your words are meaningless, worthless, and powerless. That blood has nothing to do with the murder investigation whatsoever! Need I remind you that the blood got onto that box long before it entered my embassy?**

>Kay: Wh-What sort of nonsense--!?

>Gumshoe: Yeah! It's BLOOD, pal! There's no way it's not related to the murder!

>Alba: Heh heh. So you would like to believe. But what if someone preparing the Samurai Dogs had a small nosebleed? What then?"

Alba prepares to leave (...ONCE MORE), Edgeworth counters, having deduced that the blood must be Alba's- he then claims that Alba and Coachen must've fought and Coachen had injured him before being killed, noting Alba's wound from earlier that he'd claimed came from the thief. Further issues are raised as how did Coachen smuggle *his* weapon? Edgeworth utilises the Yatagarasu Key that was found on Coachen's corpse, the key which was secretly a knife.

Alba had been unable to dispose of the knife/key since it was needed for Coachen to be implicated for the smuggling ring (the key opens a secret compartment of his safe). Edgeworth notes that the knife would match Alba's wound, and that the blood on the box would be his.

Alba, having been completely cornered and revealed, breaks down screaming.



(strategy, short-term strategy + fortitude + logistics + orchestration + complexity + adaptability + resilience + foresight, EM, composure, determination, perseverance, sophistry, verbal deception, PSI, WMI, VCI, FRI, social awareness, self-regulation, aura, verbal manipulation, social manipulation, misdirection, fear inducement, moving the goalposts, convergent + critical + fast + linear thinking, verbal + logical + abductive + analogical reasoning, setting traps, trap evasion)

Quercus Alba's category feats explained:

Key: FSIQ, FSEQ, FSSQ, FSAQ, Psychology, Manip/Decep, Thinking/Reasoning, Strat/Planning, Misc.

1- short term planning, planning contingency, formulation, intricacies, tactics, invincibility, pragmatic + creative + strategic + fast thinking, anticipation, setting traps, trap evasion (Alba's fast formulation of his plan to cover up the thief's murder, effectively framing Butz and accounting for the possibility of it being discovered through his self-defence plan, furthermore his plan to frame Coachen and completely blame Coachen's death on the Yatagarasu)

2- VSI, EM/EE, resource management, leadership, cunning, social engineering, indirect manipulation, event manipulation,

misdirection, fabrication, strategic deception, scapegoating, concealment, information control, smearing (His murder of Coachen, management of his embassy + ring, destroying an entire country's economy using his smuggling ring, blaming Coachen and scapegoating him for the Smuggling Ring, his creation of the Yatagarasu shadow and his creation of a pulley system to swap the statues)

3- strategy, short-term strategy + fortitude + logistics + orchestration + complexity + adaptability + resilience + foresight, EM, composure, determination, perseverance, sophistry, verbal deception, PSI, WMI, VCI, FRI, social awareness, self-regulation, aura, verbal manipulation, social manipulation, convergent + critical + fast + linear thinking, verbal + logical + abductive + analogical reasoning (Alba's fast formulation of sophistry and testimony, his layered defences - extraterritorial rights, hidden smuggling routes, false murder scene, spy in interpol, etc., remaining composed and even unfazed at many points where suspicion is placed on him, remaining cocky and composed up until the final nail in the coffin is placed)

4- EP/EU (possibly) (discerning Coachen's betrayal in advance, genuinely though, Alba's EI is really bad)

5- Warfare, EF (Warfare on Edgeworth through how hopeless he makes the situation seem, and how deliberately cocky and

overconfident he acts to discourage and destroy any hopes of taking him down)

6- mass deception + disguise (feeble persona)



“And I would've gotten away with it too if it wasn't for you meddling prosecutors!”



Made by TheNoo (u/Due_Ad8334) Credit to the Ace Attorney wiki for transcripts, quotes, images and help summarising.

List of Smuggling Ring Members:

Quercus Alba; leader of the ring; Allebahst's foreign ambassador.
Manny Coachen; second in command of smuggling ring; Babahl's assistant ambassador.
Calisto Yew/Shih-na; spy for the ring, defense attorney (disguised, briefly), interpol agent (disguised).
Ernest Amano; agent for the ring, incredibly wealthy man with a lot of influence.
Cammy Meele; agent for the ring, flight attendant, used her position to help with smuggling.
Jacques Portsman; agent for the ring, and member of the prosecutor's office.

An employee at the Amano Group has incriminating evidence of them, Alba orders Coachen to kill her due to this. Coachen does so after being dropped off, but gets caught. Ernest Amano has the footage of the murder stolen so Coachen gets off free. During the trial, Alba has his spy act as a defence attorney, adopting the name Calisto Yew and disguising herself as the victim's mourning sister.

She then embeds herself into the Yatagarasu (Detective Badd and Byrne Faraday), helping the group take down allied companies, while keeping Alba himself safe.

After Faraday breaks into the Ethiopian Embassy however, Alba has him killed by Yew. The plan to kill Faraday however, is literally all Yew's plan though, so irrelevant to Alba.