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From the Selected Works of William A. Hilyerd

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**Hi Superman, I'm a Lawyer: A Guide to Attorneys
(& Other Legal Professionals) Portrayed in
American Comic Books: 1910-2007**

William A. Hilyerd, *University of Louisville*



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Hi Superman, I'm a Lawyer:
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1910-2007

William A. Hilyerd*

I. Introduction¹

Quick, who is the most enduring fictional attorney, with a publication history spanning sixty-five years? Any guesses?

Could it be the most famous of the fictional attorneys, Perry Mason? Close, but while Mr. Mason is the most influential and most loved of the fictional attorneys, his adventures were chronicled for only sixty-two years, beginning in 1933 and ending in 1995.²

Here's a hint. This character was a former district attorney. Still stumped? Hint number two. This character was a former district attorney who had half of his face scarred beyond repair when a mobster he was prosecuting threw acid in his face. Are some lights going on now? If anyone reading this article is a fan of Batman, or has children who are fans of Batman, then they know that the character in question is Harvey Dent, otherwise known as the villain Two-Face. Introduced in 1942,³ he has since appeared in multiple comic books, movies, television shows,

* William A. Hilyerd, J.D., M.L.S., M.B.A., is an Assistant Professor of Legal Bibliography and the Research and Reference Services Coordinator at the University of Louisville's Louis D. Brandeis School of Law Library. He has also been an avid comic book collector for over thirty years.

¹ All citations to comic books follow the format for shorter works in a collection as indicated in *The BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION* (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et al. eds., 18th ed. 2005) rule 15.5, with one exception: The complete date (month & year) is included in each citation. Also, in citations contained in this article, comic book issue numbers are treated as volume numbers and placed according to rule 15.5. Although comic books are technically periodicals, the author feels that treating them in the manner described in rule 15.5 best captures the true nature of comic books and best identifies individual books and stories.

² Perry Mason first appeared in ERLE STANLEY GARDNER, *THE CASE OF THE VELVET CLAWS* (1933). His final appearance was in the television movie *THE CASE OF THE KILLER KISS* (Viacom, 1993). Four movies based on the Perry Mason character, but not starring him, were produced after the death of Perry Mason actor Raymond Burr. The final one of these was *THE CASE OF THE JEALOUS JOKESTER* (Viacom, 1995). See George Fergus, *Perry Mason: Titles and Air Dates Guide*, <http://epguides.com/PerryMason/> (last visited May 11, 2007).

³ Two-Face appeared for the first time in Bill Finger & Bob Kane, *The Crimes of Two-Face*, in 66 *DETECTIVE COMICS* (Aug. 1942), reprinted in *DC-20 100-PAGE SUPER SPECTACULAR*, at 3 (E. Nelson Bridwell ed., Sept 1973).

and video games and is scheduled to appear in *The Dark Knight*, the sequel to the hit movie *Batman Begins*.⁴ Indeed, most Americans, whether or not they have ever read a Batman comic book, recognize him on sight.⁵ He is, however, only one of the many attorney characters who have been introduced in comic books since the debut of the modern comic book in the late 1920s.⁶ Beginning in the 1930s, these comic book attorneys were the first exposure to the legal community for many young boys (and a significant number of young girls) and just like the other superheroes these boys adored in their youth, these attorneys had an impact on them – long before they were introduced to Perry Mason, Atticus Finch or Ally McBeal and long before they first watched *L.A. Law* or *Boston Legal*.⁷

Over the past two or three decades, many articles and books that dealt with the portrayal of lawyers and the legal profession in popular culture.⁸ While these materials have discussed and analyzed the portrayal of the legal profession in movies, television, and popular literature, one area of popular culture has been left out of the discussion - the comic book. Given the fact that the fictional attorney with the longest publication history first appeared in a comic book, and literally dozens of lawyers have appeared as major characters in comic books, it is somewhat

Harvey Dent was originally called Harvey Kent in this issue. His name was changed to Harvey Dent to avoid confusion with Clark Kent. Pat Curley, Batman Villains of the 1950s, Part II, in *The Weekly Planet* No. 55, Mike's Amazing World of DC Comics, <http://www.mikesamazingworld.com/planet/weeklyplanet.php?issue=55> (last visited May 14, 2007).

⁴ For a listing of appearances of Harvey Dent or his scar faced alter-ego Two-Face, see Wikipedia.com, Bibliography of Two-Face, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bibliography_of_Two-Face (last visited May 11, 2007).

⁵ Due in no small part to Tommy Lee Jones' portrayal of him in the movie *BATMAN FOREVER* (Warner Bros. Pictures 1995).

⁶ See *infra* Part II for a short history of comic books.

⁷ By the 1950s, 90% of all children had admitted to reading and enjoying comic books. Robert Lee Beerbohm & Richard D. Olson, *The American Comic Book: 1929-Present: A Concise History of the Field as of 2006: The Modern Comics Magazine Supplants the Earlier Formats*, in ROBERT M. OVERSTREET, *THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE* 380, 388 (37th ed. 2007).

⁸ See Anthony Chase, *Lawyers and Popular Culture: A Review of Mass Media Portrayals of American Attorneys*, 1986 AM. B. FOUND. RES. J. 281 (1986), Michael Epstein, *For and Against the People: Television's Prosecutor Image and the Cultural Power of the Legal Profession*, 34 U. TOL. L. REV. 817 (2003), Jennifer Jaff, *Law and Lawyer in Pop Music: A Reason for Self-Reflection*, 40 U. MIAMI L. REV. 659 (1986), and Rennard Strickland, *The Cinematic Lawyer: The Magic Mirror and the Silver Screen*, 22 OKLA. CITY U. L. REV. 13 (1997). See also Marlyn Robinson, *The Lawyer in Popular Culture: A Bibliography*, <http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/lpop/lpopbib2.html> (last visited May 11, 2007).

surprising that the portrayal of attorneys in this medium has never been explored. This article will attempt to do just that, beginning with the earliest legal professional shown in illustrated literature and continuing through attorneys as they appear in modern comic books. Legal professionals from newspaper comic strips and magazine cartoons are included as are attorneys (and judges) who first appeared in other media such as television, but later appeared in comic books. Characters who have appeared on television or in cartoons, but who have never appeared in comic books or strips will be excluded. The emphasis will be on characters that have had a recurring role in comic books, but many notable characters with only a single appearance are also mentioned.

II. The Early History of Comics

The concept of using illustrations to tell a story has existed since the dawn of history. Some of the earliest known “writings” are the pictures on the insides of caves drawn by early humans. Early great civilizations such as the Egyptians, Romans, and Greeks, also used illustrations to tell the stories of their gods and heroes.⁹ During the middle ages, hand copied manuscripts frequently contained illustrations in addition to text.¹⁰

The first known use of mass produced illustrations were broadsheets, printed first in Germany around 1460, then in the rest of Europe.¹¹ These illustrated poster size sheets were mainly used to convey religious stories or reports of newsworthy events to a populace with a low

⁹ BRIAN WALKER, *THE COMICS BEFORE 1945* 8 (Richard Slovak ed., 2004).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ See DAVID KUNZLE, *THE EARLY COMIC STRIP: NARRATIVE STRIPS AND PICTURE STORIES IN THE EUROPEAN BROADSHEET FROM C.1450 TO 1825* (1973) & Eric C. Caren, *The Pioneer Age: The American Comic Book: 1500s-1828*, in ROBERT M. OVERSTREET, *THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE* 308, 308-310 (37th ed. 2007).

literacy rate.¹² The American colonists were familiar with these broadsheets, and introduced cartoons of religious significance into the colonies around 1646.¹³ In 1837, illustrator David Johnston came up with the idea of dividing a broadsheet into panels and putting different illustrations in each panel which, when read in sequence, told a story.¹⁴ This paved the way for the first comic book to appear in America. In 1842, the *Brother Jonathan* newspaper published, as a magazine sized special, a reformatted version of *The Adventures of Obadiah Oldbuck* from Swiss artist Rodolphe Töpffer.¹⁵ The popularity of this illustrated magazine led *Brother Jonathan*, as well as other publishers, to begin printing more illustrated books in the United States.

The popularity of these books led to the introduction of illustrated humor magazines that dominated the medium until the introduction of *The Brownies* in 1883.¹⁶ These elflike characters captured the imagination of children and, along with the popularity of the illustrated humor magazines, give newspaper publishers the idea that an illustrated humor section might help sell newspapers. In 1892, the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* released the first cartoon section and the race was on to see which newspaper could have the most popular characters.¹⁷

¹² Caren, *supra* note 11, at 309 & WALKER, *supra* note 9, at 8-9.

¹³ See Robert Lee Beerbohm, Richard Samuel West & Richard D. Olson, *The Victorian Age: Comic Strips and Books: 1646-1900: A Concise History & Price Index of the Field as of 2007: Still More Origins of American Comic Strips Before the Yellow Kid*, in ROBERT M. OVERSTREET, *THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE* 318, 318-320 (37th ed. 2007).

¹⁴ *Id.* at 321.

¹⁵ See *Id.* & Rodolphe Töpffer, *The Adventures of Mr. Obadiah Oldbuck*, in 9 BROTHER JONATHAN EXTRA (1842), available at http://scoop.diamondgalleries.com/scoop_article.asp?ai=2721&si=124 (part 1 of 4), http://scoop.diamondgalleries.com/scoop_article.asp?ai=2766&si=124 (part 2 of 4), http://scoop.diamondgalleries.com/scoop_article.asp?ai=2808&si=124 (part 3 of 4) & http://scoop.diamondgalleries.com/scoop_article.asp?ai=2858&si=124 (part 4 of 4).

¹⁶ Robert Lee Beerbohm & Richard D. Olson, *The Platinum Age, The American Comic Book: 1883-1938: Further Concise History & Price Index of the Field as of 2007: Multitudes of Varied Formats Fight it Out in the Marketplace*, in ROBERT M. OVERSTREET, *THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE* 353, 353 (37th ed. 2007).

¹⁷ *Id.* at 354.

In 1905, the first bound reprint of newspaper comics appeared and a new popular format was born.¹⁸ For the next twenty-four years, new strips appeared first in newspapers and then were bound into a collection, but no new material appeared in these bound editions.¹⁹ This changed in 1929 with the publication of *The Funnies* which contained all original material.²⁰ Although this publication failed, it gave newspaper comic supplement publisher Eastern Color Printing the idea of trying to sell bound comics to oil companies as promotional materials for their new service stations.²¹ Both Standard Oil Company and Gulf Oil Company requested copies of newspaper sized comic tabloids for their stores in 1933.²² Standard Oil only took a couple of issues, but Gulf Oil continued asking for more and was shortly distributing three million copies a week.²³ Then Proctor & Gamble requested a publication which made comic book history.²⁴ They wanted thirty-two pages of material for their newest giveaway.²⁵ To make printing and distribution easier and cheaper, Eastern Publishing made the decision to fold the newspaper size sheets down to dime novel size, staple them, and add a slick cover.²⁶ This became the standard for all future comic books. Due to the success of these giveaway issues, Eastern Publishing decided that trying to sell their own material might be worthwhile, and in 1934, they released the first comic to the newsstands.²⁷

III. The Earliest Comic Book/Strip Attorneys

¹⁸ See *Id.* at 360 (identifying R. W. TAYLOR, BRAINY BOWERS AND DROWSY DUGAN (1905) as the first hardbound book that reprinted newspaper comic strips).

¹⁹ *Id.* at 359-361; Beerbohm & Olsen, *supra* note 7, at 380.

²⁰ Beerbohm & Olsen, *supra* note 7, at 380 (identifying 1 THE FUNNIES (Oct. 1936) as the first comic book that contained all original material).

²¹ *Id.* at 380-382.

²² *Id.* at 381.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.* at 382.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.* at 383 (identifying 1 FAMOUS FUNNIES (2ND SERIES) (1934) as the first comic book released to newsstands).

The first representation of a legal professional in illustrated form appears to be Judge Rummy, an anthropomorphic dog who held court in the sports section of the Hearst family of newspapers from 1910 until 1922.²⁸ Created by sports cartoonist Thomas A. “Tad” Dorgan,²⁹ the Judge Rummy character’s cartoon ran under at least three different titles during its eleven year run, *Silk Hat Harry’s Divorce Suit*, *Old Judge Rumhauser*, and *Judge Rummy’s Court*.³⁰ The strip was relegated to the sports pages so it would only be read by men who would not be offended by the hard drinking and crude habits of Judge Rummy and his friends.³¹

The first modern comic books took their cue from the pulp, or dime, novels that were popular at the time and focused their attention on fictional rough and tumble detectives.³² It did not take long for other members of the law enforcement community to begin to appear as characters in comic book pages. This included police officers and, yes, attorneys, most often district attorneys. In fact, the first masked superhero, The Clock, was, in his alter ego, district attorney Brian O’Brien.³³ Created in 1936, The Clock predated the most famous masked superhero, Batman, by nearly three years and even predated Superman by over eighteen months, although he was not as long-lived, or ultimately as popular, as Clark Kent’s beloved alter-ego.³⁴

²⁸ Donald D. Markstein, Don Markstein's Toonopedia: Judge Rummy, Silk Hat Harry, Etc., <http://www.toonopedia.com/jrummy.htm> (last visited May 11, 2007).

²⁹ Lambiek.net, Comic Creator: Tad Dorgan, http://lambiek.net/artists/d/dorgan_t.htm (last visited May 11, 2007).

³⁰ 100 YEARS OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMICS: AN ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA 345 (Maurice Horn ed., 1996) (hereinafter 100 YEARS).

³¹ Markstein, *supra* note 28.

³² See Beerbohm & Olsen, *supra* note 20, at 381-382.

³³ Two comic books, published the same month contain different stories featuring The Clock. See George Brenner, *The Clock Strikes*, in [1(6)] FUNNY PAGES [27] (Nov. 1936), available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dclid=2082> (registration required) and George Brenner, [untitled story], in 1(1) FUNNY PICTURE STORIES [1] (Nov. 1936). His secret identity was first revealed in George E. Brenner, *The Clock Strikes*, in 1 CRACK COMICS [1], [4] (Edward Cronin ed., May 1940) available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dclid=154> (registration required) (See also Mark P. Steele & James Allen, The Clock, <http://www.anerispress.com/ena/clock.html> (last visited May 11, 2007).

³⁴ Batman first appeared in Bob Kane, *The Case of the Chemical Syndicate*, in 27 DETECTIVE COMICS [1] (Vincent A. Sullivan ed., May 1939). The version of Superman as we know him today was introduced in Jerome Siegel & Joe

As district attorney, Brian O'Brien grew frustrated with the ability of the law (or more accurately, the inability of the court system) to deal with criminals, so he decided to become a district attorney by day and a vigilante by night.³⁵ The Clock provided the basic blueprint for the majority of district attorney superheroes who appeared in the succeeding years.

IV. Attorneys in Golden Comic Books: 1938-1946³⁶

While The Clock was a relative success, the idea of a superhero in comic books was relatively untried and very few publishers wanted to try a new concept when their humor comics were selling so well. With the introduction of Superman in 1938, this changed rapidly.³⁷ Superman was such a runaway success that every company wanted to introduce a superhero. While characters, who like Clark Kent, were reporters in their other identities were very popular, only so many reporter characters could attract the attention of young children. Since books featuring The Clock were selling moderately well, as were pulp novels starring detectives and other law enforcement personnel, nearly every comic book company decided to introduce a crusading, vigilante district attorney (or assistant district attorney), although the first "copycat", The Black Bat, didn't appear until almost three years after The Clock (one year after

Shuster, *Superman*, in 1 ACTION COMICS [1] (Vincent A. Sullivan ed., June 1938). The Clock's last Golden Age appearance was George Brenner, [untitled story], in 34 CRACK COMICS 20 (Fall 1944), available at http://www.electro-comics.com/lists/crack_comics.htm, but he was revived temporarily in the 1990s by Malibu Comics for their series *The Protectors* (see R.A. Jones, THE PROTECTORS (comic book series Sept. 1992- May 1994)); Steele & Allen, *supra* note 33.

³⁵ An International Catalog of Superheroes, The Clock, <http://www.internationalhero.co.uk/c/clock.htm> (last visited May 11, 2007).

³⁶ This article is divided into sections roughly approximating the accepted ages of comic books. For a description of the ages of comic books see J.C. Vaughn & Arnold T. Blumberg, *Comic Book Ages, Starting the Discussion*, in ROBERT M. OVERSTREET, THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE 866 (33rd ed. 2003) & Arnold T. Blumberg & J.C. Vaughn, *Comic Book Ages: Defining Eras*, in ROBERT M. OVERSTREET, THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE 948 (34th ed. 2004).

³⁷ The introduction of Superman is widely accepted as the start of the Golden Age of the comic book. See Vaughn & Blumberg, *supra* note 36, at 867.

Superman).³⁸ Others who followed this mold in the next few years (in order of introduction) were The Laughing Mask (renamed The Purple Mask in his second appearance),³⁹ The Red Bee,⁴⁰ Mr. Scarlet,⁴¹ The Mask,⁴² The Falcon,⁴³ The Black Spider,⁴⁴ The Mouthpiece,⁴⁵ Air Wave,⁴⁶ and the aforementioned Two-Face, who appears to have been the first attorney to become a villain in comic books.⁴⁷

The most unique of the district attorney characters was #711, a district attorney who switched places with his best friend in prison (who looked exactly like him) so that his buddy could see the birth of his son.⁴⁸ The best friend was killed in a hit and run accident and Daniel Dyce became prisoner #711, who escaped from prison every night to battle criminals, only to return by morning roll call.⁴⁹ Another unique character was Jack Barrister, who, although not a

³⁸ See Phil Stephensen-Payne, *Black Book Detective Magazine*, http://www.philsp.com/mags/black_book_detective.html (last visited June 7, 2007) (identifying G. Wayman Jones, *Brand of the Black Bat*, in 9(2) BLACK BOOK DETECTIVE MAGAZINE (July 1939) as the first appearance of the Black Bat). The Black Bat was not technically a comic book hero as he only appeared in the pulp detective magazine *Black Book Detective*, but he is included since he was one of the first costumed heroes to appear during the early days of comic books.

³⁹ Will Harr & M. Gutwirth, *The Laughing Mask*, in 2 DARING MYSTERY COMICS [57] (Feb. 1940); Will Harr & Maurice Gutwirth, *The Purple Mask*, in 3 DARING MYSTERY COMICS [18] (Apr. 1940).

⁴⁰ B.H. Apiary, *The Red Bee*, in 1 HIT COMICS 20 (Edward Cronin ed., July 1940), available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dlid=1027> (registration required).

⁴¹ *Mister Scarlet*, in 1 WOW COMICS 1 (Winter 1940-41), available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dlid=2373> (registration required).

⁴² Jess Nevins, *The Golden Age Heroes Directory: M*, <http://ratmmjess.tripod.com/gold/goldm.html> (last visited June 27, 2007) (entry for The Mask) (identifying Raymond Thayer, *The Mask Strikes*, in 1 EXCITING COMICS (Apr. 1940) as the first appearance of The Mask).

⁴³ *The Falcon*, in 2 HUMAN TORCH [34] (Fall 1940).

⁴⁴ Jess Nevins, *The Golden Age Heroes Directory: B*, <http://ratmmjess.tripod.com/gold/goldb.html> (last visited June 12, 2007) (entry for The Black Spider) & The Grand Comics Database Project, *Super-Mystery Comics #v1#3*, <http://comics.org/details.lasso?id=1068> (both identifying 1(3) SUPER MYSTERY COMICS (Oct. 1940) as the first appearance of The Black Spider).

⁴⁵ Fred Guardineer, *The Mouthpiece*, in 1 POLICE COMICS 44 (Edward Cronin ed., Aug. 1941), available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dlid=437> (registration required).

⁴⁶ Lee Harris, *Case of the Missing Evidence*, in 60 DETECTIVE COMICS [48] (Feb. 1942).

⁴⁷ Finger & Kane, *supra* note 3, at 4-6.

⁴⁸ George E. Brenner, #711, in 1 POLICE COMICS 12, 12-14 (Edward Cronin ed., Aug. 1941), available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dlid=437> (registration required); Don Markstein, Don Markstein's Toonopedia: 711, <http://www.toonopedia.com/711.htm> (last visited May 11, 2007).

⁴⁹ Brenner, *supra* note 48 and Markstein, *supra* note 48.

superhero himself, was chosen by the supernatural entity The Eye to be the conduit for information so that criminals could be prosecuted.⁵⁰

Along the way, some publishers decided to break with “tradition” and introduce some district attorney characters that didn’t wear masks or have a superhero identity, such as Steve Malone,⁵¹ Dean Masters,⁵² and Tom Kerry.⁵³ Other district attorneys were shown as single appearance supporting characters in on-going titles.⁵⁴ District attorneys from other media also began finding their way into comic books. Beginning in 1939, the popular radio show, *Mr. District Attorney*, found its way into comic books.⁵⁵ It remained a popular comic book through two publishers, and lasted until 1959.⁵⁶

Another variation on the theme of district attorney characters were individuals, who while not district attorneys themselves, were either related to, or worked for, district attorneys. There are at least three notable early examples. The best known was boy hero Little Boy Blue (aka Tommy Rodgers), who, with friends Tubby and Toughy, helped catch criminals that his

⁵⁰ Don Markstein, Don Markstein's Toonopedia: The Eye Sees, <http://www.toonopedia.com/eyesees.htm> (last visited May 11, 2007); Mark Schneider, *The Eye Sees*, in 24 KEEN DETECTIVE FUNNIES [28], [28], [31] (Sept. 1940), available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dclid=755> (registration required); Geoffrey Tolle, Characters from the Centaur Comics Line, <http://blaklion.best.vwh.net/centaur.html> (last visited May 11, 2007) (entry for Barrister, Jack).

⁵¹ Steve Malone first appeared in *Steve Malone, District Attorney*, in 18 DETECTIVE COMICS [46] (Vincent A. Sullivan ed., Aug. 1938). See also Michael E. Frost, Steve Malone, District Attorney – A Golden Age Comic Book Hero, <http://home.aol.com/mg4273/malone.htm> (last visited May 24, 2007).

⁵² Tolle, *supra* note 50 (entry for Masters, Dean) (identifying 15 KEEN DETECTIVE FUNNIES (Nov. 1939) as the first appearance of Dean Masters) & The Grand Comics Database Project, Keen Detective Funnies #v2#11, <http://comics.org/details.lasso?id=546> (last visited July 3, 2007) (identifying Claire S. Moe, [untitled story], in 2(11) KEEN DETECTIVE FUNNIES (Nov. 1939) as the first appearance of Dean Masters).

⁵³ Jess Nevins, The Golden Age Heroes Directory: T, <http://ratmmjess.tripod.com/gold/goldt.html> (last visited May 11, 2007) (entry for Tom Kerry) (identifying Ken Ernst, *The Weasel*, in 1 BIG SHOT COMICS (May 1940) as the first appearance of Tom Kerry).

⁵⁴ Cf. *Payment in Full*, in 11 BATMAN [14], [16-17], [21-26] (June-July 1942) in which district attorney Lee Benson assists Batman.

⁵⁵ MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY (1939-1952) (serialized radio program). See ROBERT M. OVERSTREET, THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE 738 (37th ed. 2007) (entries for *Mr. District Attorney*).

⁵⁶ *Mr. District Attorney* appeared in comic books beginning with 35 THE FUNNIES (Sept. 1939) and ran through 63 THE FUNNIES (Mar. 1942). The series also appeared in 13 FOUR COLOR (2nd series) (1942) and later moved to its own title, MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY (comic book series Jan/Feb. 1948 - Jan/Feb. 1959). See Overstreet *supra* note 55, at 613 & 738 (entries for *Mr. District Attorney* & note following entry for *The Funnies* #35).

father, the local district attorney was having trouble prosecuting.⁵⁷ Sons were not the only family members of attorneys to become costumed crime fighters. Miss X, one of the earliest known disguised female crime fighters, was also the daughter of a district attorney.⁵⁸ Finally, there was the Iron Skull, an android who responded to the telepathic call of the New York City district attorney when it was needed to help fight crime.⁵⁹

While the district attorney hero made up more than his (all of the district attorney characters at the time were male) fair share of attorney characters in comic books in the late 1930s and early 1940s, other attorney characters were also introduced during this period. The first lawyer introduced who was not a district attorney was Jeffrey Haines, who first appeared in April of 1940, as a young lawyer elected as mayor of Steeleburg.⁶⁰ He was framed for graft and corruption by the losing candidate (the incumbent mayor) and obtained the help of Prince Zardi to clear his name.⁶¹ Being framed by crooked politicians was also the basis for stories about another lawyer turned hero named John Doyle (aka The Zebra).⁶² Little else is known about this character.

⁵⁷ For the first appearance of Little Boy Blue see J.L.B. [Jon L. Blummer], *Little Boy Blue and the Blue Boys*, in 1 SENSATION COMICS [47] (M.C. Gaines ed., Jan. 1942); Jess Nevins, *The Golden Age Heroes Directory: L*, <http://ratmmjess.tripod.com/gold/goldl.html> (last visited May 11, 2007) (entry for Little Boy Blue); Don Markstein, *Don Markstein's Toonopedia: Little Boy Blue and the Blue Boys*, <http://www.toonopedia.com/l-b-blue.htm> (last visited May 11, 2007).

⁵⁸ Miss X first appeared in Bernard Baily, *Introducing "Miss X"*, in 26 ACTION COMICS [33], [35] (July 1940); See also Posting of Mikishawm to *Obscure DCU Characters: Round III*, http://www.infiniteearth.org/dcu/obscurecharacters_files/ObscureChars3.htm (Jan. 03, 2001, 06:15 A.M.) and Jess Nevins, *Who Was That Masked Man?*, <http://ratmmjess.tripod.com/ga/masked.html> (last visited May 16, 2007).

⁵⁹ The Iron Skull first appeared in Carl Burgos, *The Iron Skull*, in 5 AMAZING MAN COMICS [19] (Sept. 1939), available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dlid=1765> (registration required). His telepathic connection to the district attorney was revealed in Sam Gilman, *The Iron Skull*, in 15 AMAZING MAN COMICS [18], [19], [21], [25] (Aug. 1940), available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dlid=2814> (registration required).

⁶⁰ Steve [Jussen], *Zardi, The Eternal Man, Prince of Zandipore*, in 11 AMAZING MAN COMICS [Prince Zardi Story 3] (Apr. 1940) & Tolle, *supra* note 50.

⁶¹ Jussen, *supra* note 60, at [Prince Zardi story 5-6].

⁶² Jess Nevins, *The Golden Age Heroes Directory: X-Z*, <http://ratmmjess.tripod.com/gold/goldx.html> (last visited June 8, 2007) (entry for The Zebra) (identifying 1 POCKET COMICS as the first appearance of The Zebra) & The Grand Comics Database Project, *Pocket Comics #1*, <http://comics.org/details.lasso?id=1572> (last visited July 3, 2007) (identifying the first appearance of The Zebra as *John Doyle Convicted of Murder*, in 1 POCKET COMICS (Aug. 1941)).

Only one month later, attorney Sheldon Drake was introduced.⁶³ His daughter and secretary, Jane, who was the focus of all the stories, attempted to solve cases that came through her father's office, à la Nancy Drew.⁶⁴ The Jane Drake series appears to have run for only five issues,⁶⁵ but marks the appearance of both the first attorney engaged in private practice and the first private law office.⁶⁶

Other unique lawyers soon followed. In October of 1940, the first female attorney, Betty Bates, Lady at Law, was introduced.⁶⁷ She remained the only female attorney in comic books until 1961.⁶⁸ Ms. Bates had a successful run in comic books, appearing in *Hit Comics* beginning with issue number four and continuing for sixty-one more issues spanning ten years.⁶⁹ The first minority lawyer wasn't quite as successful. Introduced in August of 1941, Jeff Dixon, better known as the Bronze Terror, was a full-blooded Apache Indian who protected his people as attorney by day and skull-masked terror to individuals who took advantage of the Apache people by night.⁷⁰ He managed to last only ten issues, spanning less than one year.⁷¹ A crime fighter who had yet to graduate from law school was also introduced in 1941. When his father was murdered by the mob, law student Bill Waring became The Challenger.⁷² Evidently, either a law student alter ego was not as popular as that of a practicing lawyer or studying for finals cut into

⁶³ Jess Nevins, The Golden Age Heroes Directory: J, <http://ratmmjess.tripod.com/gold/goldj.html> (last visited June 27, 2007) (entry for Jane Drake) (identifying [untitled story], in 1 CRASH COMICS (May 1940) as the first appearance of Jane & Sheldon Drake).

⁶⁴ Nevins, *supra* note 63.

⁶⁵ Overstreet, *supra* note 55, at 523 (entry for *Crash Comics*).

⁶⁶ Nevins, *supra* note 63.

⁶⁷ Stanley Charlot, *The Case of the Crooked Eights*, in 4 HIT COMICS 15 (Oct. 1940). See also Jess Nevins, *supra* note 44 (entry for Betty Bates).

⁶⁸ Until the introduction of Jean Loring, the girlfriend of Ray Palmer (aka The Atom). See Fox, Kane & Anderson, *infra*, note 111.

⁶⁹ See Overstreet, *supra* note 55, at 648 (text next to entry for *Hit Comics*#4), See also various issues of *Hit Comics* from Golden Age Comics (<http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/>).

⁷⁰ Dick Briefer, *Real American #1*, in 2 DAREDEVIL COMICS [36], [39-40] (Charles Biro & Bob Wood eds., Aug. 1941), available at <http://goldenagecomics.co.uk/index.php?dlid=1971> (registration required).

⁷¹ See Overstreet, *supra* note 55, at 536 (text next to entry for *Daredevil Comics*#2).

⁷² Nick Karlton, *Meet The Challenger*, in 7 DARING MYSTERY COMICS [The Challenger Story 3-6] (Apr. 1941).

his crime fighting time, because The Challenger only made six appearances during the early 1940s.⁷³ He later reappeared in two comic books during the early 2000s.⁷⁴

By the mid-1940s the interest in masked superheroes was waning and new concepts, such as horror and true crime, were beginning to be introduced.⁷⁵ As a result, only four more attorney characters were introduced in the Golden Age of comics. Needing a new twist on the attorney character, Detective Comics, Inc (later known as DC Comics), introduced the first villain who had been an attorney, the above mentioned Two-Face.⁷⁶ Two-Face appeared to be so popular that one of the sister companies to Detective Comics, Inc., Jolaine Publications (also known as All-American Comics), decided to introduce its own attorney villain, The Thinker, as a foe of The Flash.⁷⁷ The Thinker was not as popular as Two-Face and appears to be the last major attorney villain to appear until 1969.⁷⁸

In addition to the villains two additional heroes were introduced. The first was simply known as the Judge.⁷⁹ Introduced by Rural Home Publications in 1945, the Judge was, yes, you guessed it, a judge by day and a crusading hero by night.⁸⁰ The final attorney superhero to appear

⁷³ *Id.*; Al Bare, *Killed, Killed, Killed*, in 6 MYSTIC COMICS [48] (Oct. 1941); *The Challenger*, in 7 MYSTIC COMICS [29] (Dec. 1941); Neel Nats, *League of Crime*, in 8 MYSTIC COMICS (Mar. 1942); Stan Lee & M. Sekowsky, *Horror Mansion*, in 9 MYSTIC COMICS 57 (May 1942); *The Challenger*, in 10 MYSTIC COMICS (Aug. 1942). *See also* An International Catalog of Superheroes, Challenger, <http://www.internationalhero.co.uk/c/challenger.htm> (last visited June 8, 2007).

⁷⁴ The Challenger appeared in a flashback sequence in Mark Millar, Terry Dodson & Rachel Dodson, *Last Stand Part I of IV*, in 9 MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN [1], [15] (Alex Alonso & Joe Quesada eds., Feb. 2005); he also appeared in Dan Slott, Paul Pelletier & Rick Magyar, *Imbalance of Power*, in 11 SHE-HULK [1], [13] ([Andy] Schmidt, [Nicole] Wiley, [Molly] Lazer, Tom Brevourt, & Joe Quesada eds., Mar. 2005).

⁷⁵ *See* LES DANIELS, COMIX: A HISTORY OF COMIC BOOKS IN AMERICA 17, 61-67 (1971) and WILLIAM W. SAVAGE, COMIC BOOKS AND AMERICA, 1945-1954 12-13 (1990).

⁷⁶ *See supra* text accompanying note 3.

⁷⁷ Gardner F. Fox & E. E. Hibbard, *Tumble Inn to Trouble*, in 12 ALL-FLASH 1A, 1A-5A, 14B (Sheldon Mayer ed., Fall 1943).

⁷⁸ *See infra* text accompanying note 119.

⁷⁹ Judge (otherwise known as Judge and Jury) only appeared in two stories. Nevins, *supra* note 63 (entry for The Judge) & Overstreet, *supra* note 55, at 797 (entry for *Red Circle Comics*) (identifying 1 RED CIRCLE COMICS (Jan. 1945) and 2 RED CIRCLE COMICS (Feb. 1945) as the only appearances of the Judge. *See infra* text accompanying note 282 for a second character (also an attorney) who was called the Judge.

⁸⁰ Nevins, *supra* note 63.

in the Golden Age of comics was The Mad Hatter.⁸¹ The next attorney superhero did not appear for another thirteen years.⁸² The Mad Hatter, as Grant Richmond, was a junior partner at the law firm of Fuddy and Bustle.⁸³ Fuddy and Bustle is believed to be the first law firm appearing in the pages of a comic book.

V. The Downfall and Rebirth of Comic Books: 1946-1955⁸⁴

By 1946, the Golden Age of comic books was over. Costumed superheroes were out and war stories, horror, and true crime stories were all the rage. The overexposure of costumed superheroes during the early 1940s had caused their downfall faster than exposure to kryptonite. Superheroes did not come back into vogue until 1956, and no new recurring lawyer characters were introduced in comic books until 1959; however, there was no shortage of lawyers in comics. The only known lawyer to be introduced in comic books during this period was a supporting character in a horror/crime story in 1952.⁸⁵ Some of the characters listed above continued to make appearances and attorneys from other media, such as *Mr. District Attorney*, got their own comic books.⁸⁶ Even Perry Mason showed up in the occasional comic book during the 1940s.⁸⁷ Also filling the gap were the newspaper strips, *Judge Wright* and *Judge Parker*.⁸⁸

⁸¹ Nevins, *supra* note 42 (entry for Mad Hatter) (identifying 1 THE MAD HATTER 1 (Jan-Feb. 1946) as the first appearance of The Mad Hatter).

⁸² See *infra* text accompanying note 105.

⁸³ Nevins, *supra* note 81.

⁸⁴ This period is also known as the Atom Age of Comic Books. See Vaughn & Blumberg, *supra* note 36, at 867.

⁸⁵ The lawyer was known only as Mr. Greyle. Jeff Christiansen et al., The Appendix to the Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Clutching Hands, <http://www.marvunapp.com/Appendix2/clutchinghandsjim.htm#greyle> (last visited May 26, 2007) (identifying the only appearance of Mr. Greyle as 1 JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, story #3) & The Grand Comics Database Project, Journey Into Mystery #1, <http://comics.org/details.lasso?id=9716> (last visited July 3, 2007) (identifying the only appearance of Mr. Greyle as Cal Massey, *The Clutching Hands*, in 1 JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY [8] (June 1952)).

⁸⁶ See *supra* notes 55 & 56.

⁸⁷ Erle Stanley Gardner & Vernon Greene, *The Case of the Lucky Legs*, in 49 FEATURE BOOKS (1946) and Erle Stanley Gardner & Paul Norris, *The Case of the Shoplifter's Shoe*, in 50 FEATURE BOOKS (1947). Perry Mason also

Both were soap opera style strips that told the stories of their title characters in their roles as judges as well as providing daily glimpses into their private lives.⁸⁹ *Judge Wright* lasted only three years, but *Judge Parker* became extremely popular and still runs in 175 newspapers.⁹⁰

The popularity of the true crime and horror publications actually proved to be their undoing. By relying on more graphic stories to sell comic books, comic book publishers set themselves up to become the fall guys for groups of individuals wanting to place blame for the social ills of the late 40s and early 50s. Articles blaming comic books for social ills had appeared as early as 1940.⁹¹ The impact on the industry was limited until the early 1950s although religious organizations, educational institutions, and elected officials joined the attack on comic books.⁹² Beginning in 1948, comic books came under assault by Dr. Fredric Wertham and others.⁹³ Over the next six years, Dr. Wertham became the main spokesman against comic books. In 1954, he published a best-selling book that put the blame for all the perceived social ills facing America at that time, from juvenile delinquency to homosexuality, squarely on comic books.⁹⁴ A subsequent investigation by the United States Senate further tarnished the image of

appeared in newspaper comic strips during the early 1950s and two comic books during the 1960s, see Kevin Burton Smith, Perry Mason, <http://www.thrillingdetective.com/mason.html> (last visited May 14, 2007) and PERRY MASON MYSTERY MAGAZINE, *infra* note 134.

⁸⁸ 100 YEARS, *supra* note 30, at 158-159.

⁸⁹ *Id.*

⁹⁰ King Features Syndicate, Comics: Judge Parker, <http://www.kingfeatures.com/features/comics/jparker/about.htm> (last visited May 14, 2007).

⁹¹ BART BEATY, FREDRIC WERTHAM AND THE CRITIQUE OF MASS CULTURE 113 (2005).

⁹² *Id.*, at 104-166 and Jamie Coville, Seduction of the Innocents and the Attack on Comic Books, http://www.psu.edu/dept/inart10_110/inart10/cmbk4cca.html (last visited May 14, 2007).

⁹³ See, e.g., Judith Crist, *Horror in the Nursery*, COLLIER'S, March 27, 1948, at 22. (interview of Fredric Wertham).; Fredric Wertham, *Comic Books -- Blueprints for Delinquency*, READER'S DIGEST, May 1954, at 24. GEOFFREY WAGNER, PARADE OF PLEASURE: A STUDY OF POPULAR ICONOGRAPHY IN THE U.S.A. 71-112 (1954). For a slightly more neutral discussion which at least separates crime and horror comic books from less graphic material see JOSETTE FRANK, COMICS, RADIO, MOVIES--AND CHILDREN 1-12 (Public Affairs Comm., Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 148, 1st ed. 1949). See also Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, Research: Censorship of Comics Bibliography, <http://www.cbldf.org/research/biblio-50s.html> (last visited May 14, 2007).

⁹⁴ See FREDRIC WERTHAM, SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT 147-171, 187-193 (1954).

the comic book.⁹⁵ To restore their wholesome image, comic book publishers created an independent group, the Comics Code Authority (usually known as the C.C.A.), to regulate the content of comic books.⁹⁶ The C.C.A. expressly refused to approve the horror and true crime comic books, and without the seal of approval, newsstands refused to carry the books.⁹⁷ With the most popular books removed from newsstands, publishers knew they had to do something to survive. This meant bringing back the superhero comics that had enjoyed good reputations during the early 1940s. While some unsuccessful attempts were made to bring back Golden Age heroes,⁹⁸ the first successful restart of the hero genre was in 1956.⁹⁹

VI. Silver Age Attorneys: 1956-1969

In 1956, National Comics Publications, a company created by the merger of Detective, Comics, Inc., National Allied Publications, and Jolaine Publications, decided that while it might be possible to bring back the 1940s superheroes, it would be better to reinvent them with new alter egos, new costumes, and often new powers.¹⁰⁰ The first character reintroduced, The Flash,

⁹⁵ COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, COMIC BOOKS AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, S. REP. NO. 84-62 (1955) (interim rep.), available at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/8580/kefauver.html>.

⁹⁶ For more information on the Comics Code Authority, see AMY KISTE NYBERG, SEAL OF APPROVAL: THE HISTORY OF THE COMICS CODE (1998).

⁹⁷ Corville, *supra* note 92.

⁹⁸ *Id.* See also *The Return of...The Human Torch!*, in 24 YOUNG MEN 1 (Dec. 1953), reprinted in 20 MARVEL SUPER-HEROES, at [34] (Stan Lee ed., May 1969), *Back from the Dead!*, in 24 YOUNG MEN [12] (Dec. 1953), reprinted in 20 MARVEL SUPER-HEROES, at [44] (Stan Lee ed., May 1969), and [untitled story], in 24 YOUNG MEN [18] (Dec. 1953), reprinted in 20 MARVEL SUPER-HEROES, at [52] (Stan Lee ed., May 1969).

⁹⁹ *Mystery of the Human Thunderbolt*, in 4 SHOWCASE [1] (Whitney Ellsworth ed., Sept./Oct. 1956).

¹⁰⁰ Detective Comics, Inc. had long been unofficially known as DC Comics. While the merged company continued this tradition, its official name became National Comics Publications. In 1961, the official name of the company changed to National Periodical Publications although the unofficial designation remained. National Periodical Publications officially changed its name to DC Comics in 1976. Bob Hughes, DC Timeline: 1835-1945, <http://www.supermanartists.comics.org/dchistory/DCHISTORY-1.htm> (last visited June 28, 2007); Bob Hughes, DC Timeline: 1946-1955, <http://www.supermanartists.comics.org/dchistory/DCHISTORY-2.htm> (last visited June 28, 2007); Bob Hughes, DC Timeline: 1960-1965, <http://www.supermanartists.comics.org/dchistory/DCHISTORY-3a.htm> (last visited June 28, 2007) & Bob Hughes, DC Timeline: 1976-1979, <http://www.supermanartists.comics.org/dchistory/DCHISTORY-6.htm> (last visited June 28, 2007).

sparked a resurgence of the superhero genre and touched off what has come to be known as the Silver Age of comic books.¹⁰¹ During the decade, a cornucopia of new superheroes were introduced including such recognizable characters as Spider-Man,¹⁰² The Fantastic Four,¹⁰³ and The Incredible Hulk.¹⁰⁴ In addition to these recognizable characters, several new attorney characters were also introduced. The first of these, The Fly, appeared in 1960.¹⁰⁵ He was identified as Thomas Troy, who ran his own law office.¹⁰⁶

In addition to recreating its heroes with new costumes, powers, and identities, National Comics Publications stood out as the only company that directly reintroduced the majority of their Golden Age (1930s and 1940s) heroes. The first Golden Age character to reappear was the original Flash (Jay Garrick).¹⁰⁷ In order to explain the existence of both the newer characters and the older characters, the concept of additional planes of existence was introduced. The “new” characters occupied one reality, known as Earth-I (sometimes identified as Earth-one or Earth-1), while the heroes from the 1930s and 1940s occupied Earth-II (often identified as Earth-2 or

¹⁰¹ Vaughn & Blumberg, *supra* note 36, at 867.

¹⁰² For the first appearance of Spider-Man, *see* Stan Lee & S. Ditko, *Spider-Man*, in 15 AMAZING FANTASY 1 (Aug. 1962). He has subsequently appeared in ten television series, three movies, and numerous other books. For more information on the Spider-Man’s appearances in other media *see* Wikipedia.com, Spider-Man Television Series, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spider-Man_television_series (last visited May 14, 2007) and Wikipedia.com, Spider-Man Film Series, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spider-Man_film_series (last visited May 14, 2007).

¹⁰³ The Fantastic Four first appeared in Stan Lee & Jack Kirby, *The Fantastic Four!*, in 1 THE FANTASTIC FOUR 1 (Nov. 1961). Like Spider-Man (*see supra* note 102), The Fantastic Four have also appeared on television and in movies. For information on the four television programs and the two movies starring The Fantastic Four, *see* Wikipedia.com, Fantastic Four, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fantastic_Four (last visited May 14, 2007).

¹⁰⁴ The Incredible Hulk was introduced in Stan Lee & J. Kirby, *The Hulk*, in 1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK 1 (May 1962). Although a 2003 movie starring Eric Bana, Jennifer Connelly, Sam Elliot, and Nick Nolte was a success at the box office (HULK (Universal Pictures 1993)), The Incredible Hulk is probably best known from the late 1970s and early 1980s television show starring Bill Bixby & Lou Ferrigno. (*The Incredible Hulk* (CBS television series 1978-1982)).

¹⁰⁵ The Fly was originally introduced as a young orphan in *The Strange New World of the Fly*, in 1 THE FLY 1, 1, 6 (Aug. 1959), but only four issues later his alter ego was shown opening his own law office in *Return of the Spider*, in 5 THE FLY [1], [1] (Mar. 1960).

¹⁰⁶ *Return of the Spider*, *supra* note 105.

¹⁰⁷ Gardner Fox, Carmine Infantino & Joe Giella, *Flash of Two Worlds!*, in 123 THE FLASH [1], [1], 6-13 (Sept. 1961).

Earth-two).¹⁰⁸ In comic book chronology, the heroes on Earth-II began appearing in the 1930s, while on Earth-I heroes did not begin appearing until the 1950s. The heroes of Earth-II were physically older, and younger characters, such as Robin, The Boy Wonder, had grown up and were now adults.¹⁰⁹ Others had married and had children who later became heroes, some of whom also became attorneys in their other identities.¹¹⁰

During the rest of the late 1950s and the 1960s, several other notable attorney characters were introduced. The first of these was Jean Loring, the first female attorney to appear in comic books since Betty Bates, *Lady at Law* ceased publication in 1950.¹¹¹ Unlike Ms. Bates, Jean Loring was not the title character in her own feature. Instead, she was introduced as the girlfriend of the newly reinvented character, The Atom.¹¹² Next came Harvard trained former lawyer, Matt Liebowicz, who left his Boston law practice (circa 1870), changed his name to Matt Hawk, and moved to Tombstone, Texas (often incorrectly identified as the more famous Tombstone, Arizona) to become the gun-fighter, the Two-Gun Kid.¹¹³ The Two-Gun Kid was the first comic book attorney to have gone to a law school that actually existed outside of the pages of the comic book.

The most well known of the Silver Age attorneys was introduced by Marvel Comics shortly thereafter. Matt Murdock, otherwise known as the hero Daredevil, and his law partner

¹⁰⁸ The first mention of alternate earths was in Fox, Infantino & Giella, *supra*, note 107, however the first time the alternate earth featuring the Golden Age heroes was named Earth-2 was in *Crisis on Earth-One!*, in 21 JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA [1], 15 (Aug. 1963).

¹⁰⁹ Gardner Fox, [Mike] Sekowsky & [Sid] Greene, *The Super-Crisis That Struck Earth-Two!*, in 55 JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA [1], 4 (Aug. 1967).

¹¹⁰ See *infra* text accompanying notes 162 - 164.

¹¹¹ Gardner Fox, Gil Kane & Murphy Anderson, *Birth of the Atom!*, in 34 SHOWCASE [1] (Sept./Oct. 1961), reprinted in 2 SECRET ORIGINS, at [15], [18] (Apr./May 1973); For the final appearance of Betty Bates, see John Forte, [untitled story], in 65 HIT COMICS (July 1950).

¹¹² Fox, Kane & Anderson, *supra* note 111.

¹¹³ Stan Lee & J. Kirby, *The Beginning of the Two-Gun Kid*, in 60 TWO-GUN KID 1, 1, 3, 7 (Nov. 1962). There was an earlier Two-Gun Kid, named Clay Harder. This earlier Two-Gun Kid appeared from 1 TWO-GUN KID (Mar. 1948) through 59 TWO-GUN KID (Apr. 1961) and was not an attorney. Marvel Comics Group, Two-Gun Kid, <http://www.marveldirectory.com/individuals/t/twogunkid.htm> (last visited June 8, 2007).

Franklin “Foggy” Nelson had their first stories told in 1964.¹¹⁴ Matt Murdock was the first physically disabled practicing attorney in the history of comic books (he was blind).¹¹⁵

Following in the tradition of the Two-Gun Kid, the law schools attended by both Matt Murdock and Foggy Nelson also existed in the real world.¹¹⁶ It was later revealed that unlike Matt Murdock, Foggy Nelson had a parent who was a lawyer.¹¹⁷ At various times during the *Daredevil* series, Foggy Nelson served as both a private attorney and a district attorney.¹¹⁸

While Foggy was a district attorney, one of his assistant D.A.s became and later was unmasked as the crime lord, Crime-Wave.¹¹⁹ As Marvel Comics introduced the concept of additional planes of existence in their publications during the 1980s and 1990s, Foggy Nelson also turned up as an attorney on other “worlds” as well.¹²⁰

¹¹⁴ Stan Lee & Bill Everett, *The Origin of Daredevil*, in 1 DAREDEVIL [1] (Apr. 1964). In addition to appearing in comic books, Daredevil was also played by actor Ben Affleck in the 2003 movie. His partner, Foggy Nelson also appeared, played by Jon Favreau. DAREDEVIL (20TH Century Fox 2003). Daredevil is the only attorney superhero character to have appeared as the title character in a movie.

¹¹⁵ While Daredevil was the first blind practicing attorney he was not the first attorney to be blinded or the first blind super hero. The 1940s attorney hero, The Mask, was the first attorney to lose his sight in comics, but regained it before he started to fight crime. Thayer, *supra* note 42. The first blind superhero in comic books was Dr. Mid-Nite, who was a doctor before he was blinded. Charles Reizenstein & Stan Aschmeier, *How He Began*, in 25 ALL-AMERICAN COMICS [28] (Apr. 1941), reprinted as *The Origin of Dr. Mid-Nite* in 95 JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, at [25] (Dec. 1971).

¹¹⁶ Official sources have both Matt Murdock and Foggy Nelson graduating from Columbia Law School. See Mark Gruenwald, Peter Sanderson & David Mazzucchelli, *Daredevil*, in 3 THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE 34 (Jim Shooter & Howard Mackie eds., Deluxe Ed. Feb. 1986) and Marvel Comics, *Marvel Universe: Daredevil (Matt Murdock)*, http://www.marvel.com/universe/Daredevil_%28Matthew_Murdock%29 (last visited May 25, 2007). Other sources have both Murdock and Nelson attending Columbia, but transferring to and graduating from Harvard. See Marvel Database Project, *Foggy Nelson*, http://www.marveldatabase.com/Foggy_Nelson (last visited May 25, 2007) and ComicVine, *Foggy Nelson (comics)*, <http://www.comicvine.com/foggy-nelson/3124/> (last visited May 25, 2007).

¹¹⁷ Foggy’s parents, Edward and Anna Nelson, were first introduced in Steve Gerber, Bob Brown & Paul Gulacy, *Cry...Beetle!*, in 108 DAREDEVIL [1], 22 (Roy Thomas ed., Mar. 1974); however, in Karl Kesel, Cary Nord & Matt Ryan, *Alone Against the Absorbing Man*, in 360 DAREDEVIL [1], [7] (Bob Harras ed., Jan. 1997) it was revealed that Anna Nelson was Foggy’s step-mother and his real mother was his and Matt Murdock’s new boss, Rosalind Sharpe. (Rosalind Sharpe first appeared in Karl Kesel, Cary Nord & Matt Ryan, *The Devil’s Work!*, in 353 DAREDEVIL [1], [21] (Bob Harras & The Professor eds., June 1996).

¹¹⁸ Foggy Nelson became a district attorney in Stan Lee, Gene Colan & George Klein, *Farewell To Foggy*, in 48 DAREDEVIL 1, [20] (Jan. 1969).

¹¹⁹ Roy Thomas, Gene Colan & Syd Shores, *Showdown at Sea*, in 60 DAREDEVIL [1], 19 (Stan Lee ed., Jan. 1970).

¹²⁰ Tom DeFalco, Pat Olliffe & Al Williamson, *Turning Point*, in 17 SPIDER-GIRL [1], [16] (Bob Harras ed., Feb. 2000).

During the 1960s, Superman was accused of murder at least twice while visiting other planets. He was first accused of murdering Lex Luthor while they both visited the planet Ledor.¹²¹ Evidently, the American system of justice was alive and well on Ledor, as a prosecutor was chosen and a defense attorney was appointed from the roster of available attorneys.¹²² This appointment of a defense attorney marked the first instance, in comic books, of an attorney being appointed for someone who could not pay - a sure sign that both the comic book industry (as well as the people of Ledor), had read the then recent U.S. Supreme Court opinion in *Gideon v. Wainwright*.¹²³ A defense attorney was again appointed for Superman when he was accused of murdering Dyno-man, the hero of the planet Sorrrta.¹²⁴ That time the defense attorney was a woman, Rilora Dorc, who appears to be the first female defense attorney shown in comic books.¹²⁵

Two other attorney supporting characters were introduced during the late 1960s. One of these was the father of the Vietnam War era heroes Hawk and Dove (brothers Hank and Don Hall).¹²⁶ Their father, Irwin Hall, was a judge and actually appears to be the first character who was both an attorney and a family member of a superhero who also actively disapproved of vigilantism.¹²⁷ While Judge Hall was portrayed as an extremely ethical individual, the other supporting attorney introduced during the late 1960s was exactly the opposite. Caesar Cicero was the first attorney to be introduced who had as his sole client one of the major fictional New

¹²¹ *The Death of Luthor!*, in 318 ACTION COMICS [1], 7-9 (Nov. 1964).

¹²² *Id.* at 11.

¹²³ 372 U.S. 335 (1963). In *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the Supreme Court mandated that defense counsel be provided (at government expense) to criminal defendants who could not afford their own attorneys.

¹²⁴ *The Day Superman Became an Assassin!*, in 206 SUPERMAN [1], 6 (May 1968).

¹²⁵ *Id.*

¹²⁶ Steve Ditko & Steve Skeates, *In the Beginning...*, in 75 SHOWCASE [1], 3 (June 1968).

¹²⁷ *Id.* & Denys Cowan & Dick Giordano, *Hawk and Dove*, in 10 WHO'S WHO: THE DEFINITIVE DIRECTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE 9 (Lein Wein, Marv Wolfman & Robert Greenberger eds., Dec. 1985).

York organized crime families.¹²⁸ Comic book readers later met other attorneys who specialized in representing members of organized crime.¹²⁹

Also during the mid-1960s, one very well known character that had existed for years was finally revealed as an attorney. He had been appearing as a character in a *New Yorker* cartoon since the 1930s and did not even have a first name, let alone a profession, until he began appearing on television. This was the patriarch of *The Addams Family*. Originally drawn by Charles Addams, *The Addams Family* was adapted for television in 1964 and all of the family members were given names.¹³⁰ The patriarch of the family was given the name of Gomez, and revealed to be an attorney, albeit not a very good or serious one.¹³¹ While he first appeared as a comic strip character, he eventually appeared in comic books in the 1970s.¹³² Another comic strip attorney who first appeared during the 1960s was the unnamed barrister from the comic strip the *Wizard of Id*.¹³³

Other lawyers from television also made appearances in comic books during the 1960s. Perry Mason was featured in a two issue series in 1964.¹³⁴ Other lawyer characters that made the transition from television to comic book were Bentley Gregg of the television show *Bachelor*

¹²⁸ John Buscema, John Romita, Stan Lee & Jim Mooney, *The Web Closes!*, in 73 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN [1], 9 (June 1969).

¹²⁹ See John Ostrander, Tom Lyle & Chris Ivy, *Family*, in 2 PUNISHER [1], [6] (Chris Cooper ed., Dec. 1995). See also text accompanying note 291.

¹³⁰ *The Addams Family: The Addams Family Goes to School* (ABC television broadcast Sept. 18, 1964).

¹³¹ *Id.* & *The Addams Family: The Addams Family in Court* (ABC television broadcast Feb. 12, 1965).

¹³² See THE ADDAMS FAMILY (comic book series Oct 1974-Apr. 1975).

¹³³ 100 YEARS, *supra* note 30, at 396-397.

¹³⁴ See PERRY MASON MYSTERY MAGAZINE (comic book series June/Aug. 1964 - Oct./Dec. 1964).

Father (a sole practitioner),¹³⁵ Jarrod Barkley from *The Big Valley* (former prosecutor, now private practitioner),¹³⁶ and Lawrence and Kenneth Preston from *The Defenders*.¹³⁷

VII. Comic Book Attorneys of the Bronze Age: 1970-1985

The 1970s marked the beginning of an era in which multiple new attorneys were introduced in supporting roles. It was also an era in which many new types of attorneys (other than prosecutors and defense attorneys) first appeared.

The first lawyer to appear during this period was Kronin Krask, who tried to take over the body of Thor to gain immortality.¹³⁸ Instead, his body was converted into living energy.¹³⁹ He later reappeared and it was revealed that his sons, Kevin and Kenneth, both lawyers, had taken over his law practice.¹⁴⁰ This is believed to be the first instance of family succession in a law office shown in comic books.

District Attorney William (Bill) Carver was also introduced in 1970.¹⁴¹ He was the first African-American to be identified as an attorney in comic books. He later became the costumed

¹³⁵ See Overstreet, *supra* note 55, at 439 (entry for *Bachelor Father*) (identifying the only two comic books based on the *Bachelor Father* television show - 1332 FOUR COLOR (Apr./June 1962) & 2 BACHELOR FATHER (Sept./Nov. 1962)), See also *Bachelor Father* (CBS television series 1957-1957), *Bachelor Father* (NBC television series 1959-1961), and *Bachelor Father* (ABC television series 1961-1962).

¹³⁶ See THE BIG VALLEY (comic book series June 1966-Oct. 1967; Oct. 1969) and *The Big Valley* (ABC television series 1965-1969).

¹³⁷ See THE DEFENDERS (comic book series Sept./Nov. 1966 – Feb./Apr. 1967) and *The Defenders* (CBS television series 1961-1965).

¹³⁸ Mr. Krask first appeared in Stan Lee, Jack Kirby & Bill Everett, *The Immortal and the Mind Slave!*, in 172 THOR [1], 8 (Jan. 1970). During that story his profession was not revealed. It was not until much later that readers found out that he had been an attorney. See Roy Thomas, R.J.M. Lofficier, Larry Alexander & Grant Mishm, *Krask Force*, in 16 MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE...THUNDERSTRIKE/CODE BLUE [Code Blue Story 1, 8] (Mike Rockwitz & Ralph Macchio eds., Jan. 1995).

¹³⁹ Thomas et al., *supra* note 138.

¹⁴⁰ See Roy Thomas, Jean-Marc Lofficier, Larry Alexander & Charles Barnett, *The Thermal Man is Back*, in 15 MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE...THUNDERSTRIKE/CODE BLUE [Code Blue Story 1, 20] (Mike Rockwitz & Ralph Macchio eds., Dec. 1994) & Thomas et al., *supra* note 138.

¹⁴¹ Roy Thomas, Gene Colan & Syd Shores, *A Life on the Line*, in 69 DAREDEVIL [1], 20 (Stan Lee ed., Oct. 1970).

hero Thunderbolt in 1977, making him the first African-American to be both lawyer and superhero.¹⁴² The next African-American legal professional to appear in comic books came as part of a television show which was adapted as a comic book. This series, *The Young Lawyers*, was significant as it featured the first female African-American legal professional (a law student) to appear in comic books.¹⁴³ Pat Walters, played in the television series by Judy Pace, also stands out as the only African-American woman to be shown actively engaged in legal practice in comic books as of 2007.¹⁴⁴ “Big Ben” Donovan rounds out the list of early African-American attorneys in comic books. His earliest appearance featured him as a lawyer working in Harlem, but after his brother was arrested and died in prison he became a criminal obsessed with killing those who had wronged him.¹⁴⁵ He was the first African-American attorney in comics to become a villain. Other minorities were also represented in the 1970s. The first Asian-American to be shown as an attorney was Bill Hao (an assistant District Attorney) in the pages of a 1976 issue of the comic book *Iron Fist*.¹⁴⁶

When Matt Murdock (Daredevil) left New York to move to San Francisco in 1973, several new lawyers were introduced.¹⁴⁷ While in San Francisco, Murdock joined the law firm of Broderick, Sloan & Cranston (later Broderick, Sloan & Murdock).¹⁴⁸ One of the junior partners,

¹⁴² Marv Wolfman, Lee Elias & Tom Palmer, *Thunderbolt and Goldbug*, in 41 POWER MAN [1], 3 (Marv Wolfman ed., Mar. 1977).

¹⁴³ See THE YOUNG LAWYERS (comic book series Jan. 1971- Apr. 1971), THE YOUNG LAWYERS (ABC television movie Oct. 28, 1969), and *The Young Lawyers* (ABC television series 1970-1971).

¹⁴⁴ See THE YOUNG LAWYERS (comic book series Jan. 1971- Apr. 1971), but see *infra* notes 293 to 296 and accompanying text for the possible introduction of a new female African-American attorney & *infra* text accompanying notes 283-285 discussing another African-American female former law student.

¹⁴⁵ Beginning with Billy Graham & Steve Englehart, *Retribution*, in 14 HERO FOR HIRE [1], 11 (Roy Thomas ed., Oct. 1973); See Also Jo Duffy & Kerry Gammill, *One Must Die!*, in 62 POWER MAN AND IRON FIST [1], 22-23 (Denny O’Neil ed., Apr. 1980).

¹⁴⁶ Chris Claremont, John Byrne & Dan Adkins, *Like Tigers In the Night!*, in 8 IRON FIST [1], 14 (Archie Goodwin ed., Oct. 1976).

¹⁴⁷ The move occurred in Gerry Conway, Gene Colan & Tom Palmer, *From Stage Left, Enter Electro*, in 87 DAREDEVIL [1], [1] (Stan Lee ed., May 1972).

¹⁴⁸ Gerry Conway, Gene Colan & Tom Palmer, *Bullfight on the Bay*, in 95 DAREDEVIL 1, 6 (Roy Thomas ed., Jan. 1973).

Larry Cranston, had been a classmate of Murdock (and Nelson) and later became a professor at Columbia University.¹⁴⁹ Hatred of Murdock and Daredevil drove him to become the third criminal known as Mr. Fear.¹⁵⁰ Also at Murdock's new firm was Kerwin J. Broderick.¹⁵¹ Broderick was the senior partner and was slightly more power mad than the average senior partner. His goal was to run a criminal empire and to further that goal he ultimately used alien technology to create several villains with super powers, such as the Dark Messiah¹⁵² and Angar The Screamer.¹⁵³ While Broderick and Cranston ended up on the wrong side of the law, one partner in the law firm, Jason Sloan, although he was written to appear arrogant and manipulative, did at least manage to stay on the correct side of the law, but was ruined due to the actions of his partners.¹⁵⁴

While district attorney characters remained popular, different aspects of the legal profession were also introduced during the 1970s.¹⁵⁵ The first public defender superhero (and

¹⁴⁹ Gerry Conway, Gene Colan & Tom Palmer, *The Sinister Secret of Project Four*, in 90 DAREDEVIL [1], 9-10 (Aug. 1972); Joe Kelly, Gene Colon & Al Williamson, *Prison Without Walls*, in 366 DAREDEVIL [1], [1]-[3] (Bob Harras ed., Aug. 1997).

¹⁵⁰ Gerry Conway, Gene Colan & Tom Palmer, *Fear is the Key*, in 91 DAREDEVIL 1, 17, 22, 26-28, 30-31 (Roy Thomas ed., Sept. 1972).

¹⁵¹ Broderick first appeared only as a shadowy unnamed figure. See Gerry Conway, Steve Gerber, Gene Colan & Ernie Chua, *He Who Saves*, in 97 DAREDEVIL 1, 9, 11-12 (Roy Thomas ed., Mar. 1973).

¹⁵² *Id.* at 17-19, 21 & Kuljit Mithra, Kerwin J. Broderick, <http://www.manwithoutfear.com/characters/character.cgi?id=Kerwin%20J.%20Broderick> (last visited May 26, 2007).

¹⁵³ Steve Gerber, Gene Colan & John Tartaglione, *Mind Storm!*, in 100 DAREDEVIL 1, 28 (Roy Thomas ed., June 1973) & Mithra, *supra* note 152.

¹⁵⁴ Sloan first appeared in Conway, Colan & Palmer, *supra* note 149. He was not seen again after 107 DAREDEVIL (Steve Gerber, Bob Brown & Sal Buscema, *Blind Man's Bluff!*, in 107 DAREDEVIL [1], 7, 26-27 (Roy Thomas ed., Jan. 1974).

¹⁵⁵ Several district attorneys were introduced in the 1970s and early 1980s entirely as supporting characters. Among those were Sam Bullit (Stan Lee, Gil Kane & John Romita, *To Smash a Spider*, in 91 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN [1], 5-9 (Dec. 1970)), Blake Tower (Len Wein, Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan & Klaus Janson, *In the Coils of the Copperhead!*, in 124 DAREDEVIL 1, 14 (Aug. 1975) (face on election poster only), David Pearson (Gerry Conway, Martin Pasko, Ric Estrada & Mike Royer, *The Freedom Fighters*, in 1 FREEDOM FIGHTERS [1], 9-11 (Gerry Conway ed., Mar./Apr. 1976)), Frank Fitzsimmons (George Pérez, Marv Wolfman & Romeo Tanghal, *Kidnapped!*, in 23 THE NEW TEEN TITANS [1], 4-5 (Len Wein ed., Sept. 1982), and Maxine Levander (Frank Miller & Klaus Janson, *Lady Killer*, in 173 DAREDEVIL [1], [9] (Denny O'Neil & Jim Shooter eds., Aug. 1981)). See also *infra* notes 167, 182 and accompanying text.

later villain) appeared in 1975.¹⁵⁶ Public defender Mark Shaw first became the third character known as the Manhunter, then shed this identity to become the Privateer, and finally became the villain known as the Star-Tsar.¹⁵⁷ The only paralegal to become a superhero and the first Hispanic legal professional to appear in comics was Marcos Zapata, otherwise known as the hero, Relampago, whose adventures were published by independent comic book publisher Azteca Productions.¹⁵⁸ Also first appearing in 1976 was lawyer Emerson Bale who specialized in very wealthy clients and first appeared as the lawyer for Warren Worthington, (also known as the Angel).¹⁵⁹ He was the first attorney featured who specialized in high end clients and later represented many other wealthy superheroes and super-villains in various Marvel Comics.¹⁶⁰ The first civil/human rights lawyer, Crystal Carpenter, appeared in 1978 as she sought to have the robots the Metal Men declared citizens instead of movable property.¹⁶¹

The late 1970s revealed that the grown up Robin of Earth-II had not only taken over the role of preeminent crime fighter of Gotham City after Batman had retired, but had also gone to law school and was now a partner with the public interest law firm of Cranston & Grayson (later Cranston, Grayson, & Wayne), along with partner Arthur Cranston.¹⁶² Comic book readers soon

¹⁵⁶ Stan Woch & Bob Smith, *Privateer*, in 18 WHO'S WHO: THE DEFINITIVE DIRECTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE 20 (Lein Wein, Brenda Pope & Robert Greenberger eds., Aug. 1986) & Jack Kirby & D. Bruce Berry, *Manhunter*, in 5 FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL 1, 9-11, 13-14 (Jack Kirby ed., Aug. 1975). For the first appointed defense attorney, *see supra* text accompanying notes 121 & 122.

¹⁵⁷ Steve Englehart, Dick Dillin & Frank McLaughlin, *A Tale of Two Satellites!*, in 143 JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA [1], 4-6 (June 1977); Woch & Smith, *supra* note 156 (identifying Steve Englehart, Dick Dillin & Frank McLaughlin, *The Face of the Star-Tsar!*, in 149 JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA 1 (Julius Schwartz ed., Dec. 1977) as the first appearance of Mark Shaw as the Star-Tsar).

¹⁵⁸ An International Catalog of Superheroes, Azteca Production's Relampago, <http://www.internationalhero.co.uk/a/aztrelam.htm> (last visited May 14, 2007).

¹⁵⁹ Tony Isabella, Don Heck & John Tartaglione, *The Economy Is So Bad That...*, in 5 THE CHAMPIONS [1], 2 (Marv Wolfman ed., Apr. 1976).

¹⁶⁰ For biography and a list of appearances *see* Jeff Christiansen et al., The Appendix to the Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Emerson Bale (Lawyer, Champions Character), <http://www.marvunapp.com/Appendix/baleem.htm> (last visited May 26, 2007).

¹⁶¹ Gerry Conway & Joe Staton, *The Inheritor Kills*, in 56 METAL MEN [1], 11-15 (Paul Levitz ed., Feb./Mar. 1978).

¹⁶² Paul Levitz, Joe Staton & Bob Layton, *A Choice of Destinies*, in 18 BATMAN FAMILY (Allan Milgrom ed., June/July 1978), *reprinted in* PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON, HUNTRESS: DARKKNIGHT DAUGHTER, at 20, 20-21 (2006). Cranston, Grayson, & Wayne appears to be the first public interest law firm shown in comic books.

discovered that he was not the only attorney in the Wayne family of Earth-II. Bruce Wayne married a reformed Selina Kyle (Catwoman) and the two of them had a daughter, Helena.¹⁶³ Helena both masqueraded as the heroine, The Huntress, and eventually joined her “step-brother” as a partner in his law firm.¹⁶⁴ Helena Wayne was the first female superhero attorney introduced in comic books and remained one of the few recurring female attorneys until her death in 1986.¹⁶⁵ Several other attorneys were introduced as members of Cranston, Grayson & Wayne. These were associates Roger Demarest, Tyler Van Dyne, Frances DeVito, and Charles Bullock.¹⁶⁶ Also introduced was district attorney Harry Sims, who later became Helena’s boyfriend and confidant.¹⁶⁷ The adventures of The Huntress also inspired one of her colleagues, African-American attorney Charles Bullock, to become the hero Blackwing.¹⁶⁸ After being beaten and captured during his first outing as a superhero, Bullock decided that being a junior associate provided enough abuse to satisfy him and was not seen in costume again.¹⁶⁹ Bullock is

¹⁶³ Paul Levitz, Joe Staton & Bob Layton, *From Each Ending... a Beginning!*, in 17 DC SUPER STARS (Nov./Dec. 1977), reprinted in PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON, HUNTRESS: DARKNIGHT DAUGHTER, at 7, 7-9 (2006).

¹⁶⁴ *Id.* at 16 & Levitz, Staton & Layton, *supra* note 162, at 20.

¹⁶⁵ Marv Wolfman, George Pérez, Jerry Ordway, *Final Crisis*, in 12 CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS 1, 23, 40 (Marv Wolfman, Robert Greenberger & Len Wein eds., Mar. 1986).

¹⁶⁶ Roger Demarest was first seen in Paul Levitz, Joe Staton & Bob Layton, *supra* note 162, at 20-21, he appears again in Paul Levitz, Joe Staton & Bob Layton, *Gotham Town is Burning Down*, in 19 BATMAN FAMILY (Allan Milgrom ed., Aug./Sept. 1978), reprinted in PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON, HUNTRESS: DARKNIGHT DAUGHTER, at 30, 33-35, 37-38 (2006) and was never seen again. Van Dyne, DeVito, and Bullock were all first seen in Paul Levitz, Joe Staton & Steve Mitchell, *Always Leave ‘Em Laughing*, in 281 WONDER WOMAN (Len Wein ed., July 1981), reprinted in PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON, HUNTRESS: DARKNIGHT DAUGHTER, at 132, 134 (2006).

¹⁶⁷ Paul Levitz, Joe Staton & Steve Mitchell, *Into Darkness Once More*, in 271 WONDER WOMAN (Len Wein ed., Sept. 1980), reprinted in PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON, HUNTRESS: DARKNIGHT DAUGHTER, at 52, 57 (2006); Paul Levitz, Joe Staton & Steve Mitchell, *The Lion Roars at Midnight*, in 278 WONDER WOMAN (Len Wein ed., Apr. 1981), reprinted in PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON, HUNTRESS: DARKNIGHT DAUGHTER, at 108, 109-110 (2006); Paul Levitz, Joe Staton & Jerry Ordway, *Out of the Darkness*, in 295 WONDER WOMAN (Len Wein ed., Sept. 1982), reprinted in PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON, HUNTRESS: DARKNIGHT DAUGHTER, at 215, 222 (2006).

¹⁶⁸ Joey Cavalieri, Joe Staton & Sal Trapani, *Go Save the World*, in 297 WONDER WOMAN [17], [22-23] (Marv Wolfman ed., Nov. 1982) & Retcon@hotmail.com, Blackwing – Who Was He?, <http://meltingpot.fortunecity.com/egypt/235/page13.html> (last visited May 26, 2007).

¹⁶⁹ Cavalieri, Staton & Trapani, *supra* note 168; Joey Cavalieri, Joe Staton & Frank McLaughlin, *The Squeeze on Gotham*, in 298 WONDER WOMAN [17], [17-19] (Marv Wolfman ed., Dec. 1982); Joey Cavalieri, Joe Staton & Frank McLaughlin, *Stranglehold*, in 299 WONDER WOMAN [17], [19] (Marv Wolfman ed., Jan. 1983).

also the first (and appears to be the only) attorney in comic books to be shown using an on-line legal research service.¹⁷⁰

Three other attorney characters that appeared during the 1970s deserve mention although none first appeared in American comic books (although all three later had stories printed in American comic books). The first two originally appeared together as part of a comic strip in *The Brooklyn Paper*.¹⁷¹ Their strip moved to *The National Law Journal* in 1981 and became a comic book beginning in 1994.¹⁷² These two attorneys, Alanna Wolff and Jeff Byrd, took legal cases involving the supernatural and are some of the very few attorneys in comic books who are actually shown in the courtroom.¹⁷³ The third character that deserves mention is Judge Dredd, the anti-hero from the twenty-second century. He serves as one of the police officers, judges, juries, and often executioners in the totalitarian system which has replaced the government in the eastern part of North America. While most Americans, even those who read comic books, had never heard of Judge Dredd until the 1995 movie starring Sylvester Stallone,¹⁷⁴ he had already been a fixture in British comics for nearly twenty years.¹⁷⁵ Although he is more police officer than lawyer or judge, the character is notable as an example of legal professionals in science fiction strips and of how Europeans perceive the future of the American legal system. While he

¹⁷⁰ Paul Levitz, Joe Staton & Bruce Patterson, *Karnage is the Name*, in 286 WONDER WOMAN (Len Wein ed., Dec. 1981), reprinted in PAUL LEVITZ & JOE STATON, HUNTRESS: DARKNIGHT DAUGHTER, at 173, 181 (2006). The service is misnamed as Lexus, but it is pretty obvious the authors were referring to Lexis/ Nexis.

¹⁷¹ Batton Lash & Exhibit A Press, Who are Wolff and Byrd?, <http://www.exhibitapress.com/pages/w&b.html> (last visited May 14, 2007).

¹⁷² *Id.*

¹⁷³ The adventures of Wolff and Byrd are chronicled in WOLFF & BYRD, COUNSELORS OF THE MACABRE (comic book series May 1994-Aug. 1999), SUPERNATURAL LAW (comic book series Oct. 1999-present), and SUPERNATURAL LAW SECRETARY MAVIS (comic book series 2001-present); Strips from *The Brooklyn Paper* and *The National Law Journal* are collected in two volumes. BATTON LASH, WOLFF & BYRD, COUNSELORS OF THE MACABRE (1987) and BATTON LASH, WOLFF & BYRD, COUNSELORS OF THE MACABRE: SUPERNATURAL LAW (1992). See Batton Lash & Exhibit A Press, Wolff and Byrd and Supernatural Law Book Collections, <http://www.exhibitapress.com/pages/books.html> (last visited June 13, 2007).

¹⁷⁴ JUDGE DREDD (Buena Vista Pictures 1995).

¹⁷⁵ Judge Dredd first appeared in Peter Harris & Michael McMahon, *Judge Dredd*, in 2 2000AD [24] (Mar. 5, 1977).

eventually appeared in American comic books, the majority of his early appearances were in the British comic book *2000AD* in which he still appears.¹⁷⁶

Still more attorney characters appeared in the early portion of the 1980s. The most famous female attorney/superhero, She-Hulk, debuted in February of 1980.¹⁷⁷ Attorney Jennifer Walters, cousin to Bruce Banner, was shot by the henchmen of a mob boss who was framing one of her clients.¹⁷⁸ In order to save her life, Banner, who became The Incredible Hulk when under stress, gave her a blood transfusion of his own blood.¹⁷⁹ Of course, Banner's blood contained the radioactive enhancements that caused him to become The Hulk under stress and since she received his tainted blood, Jennifer also transformed into an out-of-control creature when she faced a stressful situation.¹⁸⁰ Unlike Banner, her normal personality eventually took control even when she changed into the She-Hulk.¹⁸¹ In the first *She-Hulk* series, Jennifer Walters generally took the side of the defense, while the prosecution was normally handled by district attorney Buck Bukowski.¹⁸² She-Hulk also had many later experiences as an attorney, including becoming an assistant prosecutor and a private attorney.¹⁸³ A second recurring female character, Bernadette (Bernie) Rosenthal, who became Captain America's girlfriend and later broke off an engagement with him to go to law school and become a lawyer, also made her first appearance in

¹⁷⁶ Rebellion A/S, 2000AD Online The Official Home of 2000 AD and Judge Dredd, <http://www.2000adonline.com/> (last visited May 15, 2007); Judge Dredd also appears in the British comic *JUDGE DREDD MAGAZINE* (comic book series Oct. 1990- present); His American comic book appearances include *JUDGE DREDD* (comic book series Nov. 1983 – Sept. 1986), *JUDGE DREDD* (Oct. 1986 – Oct. 1991), and *JUDGE DREDD* (Aug. 1994 – Jan. 1996), among others (See Overstreet *supra* note 55, at 448, 674-675, 693 & 917 for a complete list of Judge Dredd's American appearances).

¹⁷⁷ Stan Lee, John Buscema & Chic Stone, *The She-Hulk Lives*, in 1 *THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK* [1] (Feb. 1980).

¹⁷⁸ *Id.* at 6-7.

¹⁷⁹ *Id.* at 11.

¹⁸⁰ *Id.* at 19-28.

¹⁸¹ See Marvel Comics Group, *Marvel Universe: The Definitive Online Source for Marvel Super Hero Bios: She-Hulk*, <http://www.marvel.com/universe/She-Hulk> (last visited May 15, 2007).

¹⁸² Buck Bukowski first appeared in David Anthony Kraft, Mike Vosburg & Chic Stone, *Deathrace!!*, in 2 *THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK* [1], 6 (Jim Shooter ed., Mar. 1980).

¹⁸³ See *infra* text accompanying notes 268 & 269.

1980.¹⁸⁴ She left New York to go to law school at the University of Wisconsin, but later returned to take the New York bar and open a practice in the city.¹⁸⁵ While she did not continue her romantic relationship with Steve Rodgers (Captain America), she remained his friend and appeared often in the *Captain America* comic book as well as other titles.¹⁸⁶ A second Marvel character also had a romantic relationship with an attorney during the early 1980s. Alison Blaire, also known as the Dazzler, hired lawyer Ken Barnett to defend her from murder charges.¹⁸⁷ After being acquitted, she and Barnett began a romantic relationship.¹⁸⁸ While the relationship did not last, they remained friends and he continued to appear in stories about Alison.¹⁸⁹ Former law student Becky Blake also joined Nelson & Murdock as an intern.¹⁹⁰ She, like Murdock, was physically handicapped (she was in a wheelchair).¹⁹¹

DC Comics reintroduced the district attorney/vigilante concept in the aptly named series *Vigilante*.¹⁹² Adrian Chase, as the title character, resorted to becoming a hunter of criminals after

¹⁸⁴ Bernie Rosenthal first appeared in Roger Stern, John Byrne & Josef Rubinstein, *Dragon Man*, in 248 CAPTAIN AMERICA [1], 14 (Jim Salicrup ed., Aug. 1980). She decided to go to law school in [Marc] Gruenwald, [Paul] Neary & [Dennis] Janke, *Creatures of Love*, in 316 CAPTAIN AMERICA [1], 2 ([Michael] Carlin & [Jim] Shooter eds., Apr. 1986) and left New York in Mark Gruenwald, Paul Neary & Dennis Janke, *Death-Throws*, in 317 CAPTAIN AMERICA [1], 5-7, [23] (Mike Carlin & Jim Shooter eds., May 1986). See also David Medinnus, Star Spangled Site: Bernie Rosenthal, <http://web.archive.org/web/20011211052101/www.winghead.org/cast/bernie.html> (last visited May 26, 2007) for a biography.

¹⁸⁵ See *Creatures of Love*, *supra* note 184; Bernie finished law school and returned to New York in Mark Gruenwald, Ron Lim & Danny Bulanadi, *With Friends Like These*, in 380 CAPTAIN AMERICA [1], 13, 15-16 (Ralph Macchio & Tom DeFalco eds., Dec. 1990).

¹⁸⁶ For a list of appearances, see Jeff Christiansen et al, The Appendix to the Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Ros-Roz, <http://www.marvunapp.com/master/rosroz.htm> (entry for Rosenthal, Bernadette) (last visited May 26, 2007).

¹⁸⁷ Danny Fingerroth, Frank Springer & Vince Colletta, *Trial...and Terror*, in 13 DAZZLER [1], [18] (Jim Shooter ed., Mar. 1982).

¹⁸⁸ *Id.* at 23; Danny Fingerroth, Frank Springer & Vince Colletta, *Black Magic Woman*, in 16 DAZZLER [1], [5] (Jim Shooter ed., June 1982).

¹⁸⁹ *Cf.* Frank Springer & Vince Colletta, *Vendetta*, in 28 DAZZLER [1], [5-7] (Ralph Macchio & Jim Shooter eds., Sept. 1983).

¹⁹⁰ R. McKenzie, F. Robbins & F. Springer, *The Man Without Fear?*, in 155 DAREDEVIL [1], 21-22 (B. Hall & J. Shooter eds., Nov. 1978).

¹⁹¹ *Id.*

¹⁹² See VIGILANTE (comic book series Oct. 1983-Feb. 1988); For the first appearance of Adrian Chase as a district attorney see Pérez, Wolfman & Tanghal, *supra* note 155, at 6.

his wife and child were murdered by a bomb sent to kill him.¹⁹³ Also appearing in the series was Adrian's girlfriend (also an attorney) Marcia King.¹⁹⁴ While Adrian started as a district attorney, he was eventually appointed to the bench, and after his appointment threw away his costume and weapons.¹⁹⁵ Fellow judge Alan Wells retrieved the costume from the garbage and assumed the mantle of the Vigilante.¹⁹⁶ While Adrian was content simply beating criminals into confessing, Alan was much more violent and preferred executing anyone he felt was engaged in criminal activities, was helping them commit their crimes, or preventing his idea of justice from being implemented.¹⁹⁷ He even went so far as to execute a criminal defense attorney who he believed won too often on the basis of what he considered to be technicalities.¹⁹⁸ After Judge Wells was killed a third person, Dave Winston, assumed the role of the Vigilante.¹⁹⁹ After he, too, was killed, Adrian reassumed the role of the Vigilante.²⁰⁰ The inherent conflict between being a judge on the side of law and order and a vigilante dedicated to wiping out criminals without a trial finally caught up to him and he became mentally unstable and eventually committed suicide.²⁰¹

¹⁹³ George Pérez, Marv Wolfman & Pablo Marcos, *The Murder Machine*, in 2 THE NEW TEEN TITANS ANNUAL 1, 5, 30, 38-41 (Len Wein ed., 1983).

¹⁹⁴ VIGILANTE, *supra* note 192.

¹⁹⁵ Marv Wolfman, Paul Kupperberg, Denys Cowan & Rick Magyar, *Ups...and Downs*, in 19 VIGILANTE [1], 5, 23 (Marv Wolfman ed., Aug. 1985).

¹⁹⁶ *Id.* at 23; Judge Wells first appeared in Marv Wolfman, Chuck Patton & Mike DeCarlo, *Origin*, in 7 VIGILANTE 1, 4 (Marv Wolfman ed., June 1984). The new Vigilante appeared in Marv Wolfman, Paul Kupperberg, Tod Smith & Rick Magyar, *A Dream That Just Won't Die...*, in 20 VIGILANTE 1, 3 (Aug. 1985), but the fact that Alan Wells was the one who had adopted the identity was not revealed until Paul Kupperberg, Denys Cowan, [Dick] Giordano & [Arne] Starr, *Insanity's End*, in 27 VIGILANTE [1], [25] (Marv Wolfman ed., Mar. 1986).

¹⁹⁷ *Cf.* Wolfman, Kupperberg, Smith & Magyar, *supra* note 196, at 2-3, 17-18.

¹⁹⁸ Paul Kupperberg, Tod Smith & Steve Mitchell, *...Many Unhappy Returns*, in 23 VIGILANTE 1, 19-20 (Marv Wolfman ed., Nov. 1985).

¹⁹⁹ Paul Kupperberg, Tod Smith & Rick Magyar, *Rebirth*, in 28 VIGILANTE [1], [20] (Marv Wolfman ed., Apr. 1986).

²⁰⁰ Paul Kupperberg, Denys Cowan & Kyle Baker, *Mask of Death*, in 36 VIGILANTE 1, 19-24 (Mike Gold ed., Dec. 1986).

²⁰¹ Paul Kupperberg, Steve Erwin & Jack Torrance, *A Life!*, in 50 VIGILANTE [1], 23-25 (Mike Gold ed., Feb. 1988).

Defense attorneys also made appearances in DC Comics. After causing the death of the villain Professor Zoom, The Flash faced charges for manslaughter.²⁰² Over the course of the trial he had extremely bad luck with lawyers. His first defense attorney, Peter Farley, was seriously injured in a bomb blast in his office.²⁰³ His second attorney, Peter's law partner Cecile Horton, was not only caught in an avalanche caused by yet another attorney who wanted to represent The Flash in order to resurrect his declining career, but also repeatedly told The Flash how much she despised him.²⁰⁴ Finally, the attorney who caused the avalanche committed suicide.²⁰⁵

Before the two mini-series *Marvel Super Hero Secret Wars*²⁰⁶ and *Crisis on Infinite Earths*²⁰⁷ brought the Bronze Age of comic books to a close, two more defense attorneys were introduced.²⁰⁸ The first was the spectral public defender Sean Knight, introduced in the pages of the independent comic, *Mage*.²⁰⁹ Sean had actually passed away in the 1950s, but didn't realize it and kept on defending his clients.²¹⁰ He was appointed to defend title character Kevin Matchstick after Kevin broke into a sports stadium.²¹¹ The second attorney character introduced in the mid 1980s was World War II concentration camp survivor and one time romantic interest of both X-men leader Charles Xavier and nemesis Magneto, Gabrielle Haller.²¹² She later

²⁰² Cary Bates, Carmine Infantino & Dennis Jensen, *The Slayer and the Slain*, in 324 THE FLASH 1, 22-23 (Ernie Colon ed., Aug. 1983).

²⁰³ Cary Bates, Carmine Infantino & Frank McLaughlin, *Defend The Flash...and Die?*, in 332 THE FLASH 1, 1-6 (Cary Bates ed., Apr. 1984).

²⁰⁴ *Id.* at [23] & Cary Bates, Carmine Infantino & Frank McLaughlin, *Murder on the Rocks*, in 336 THE FLASH 1, 5-13 (Cary Bates ed., Aug. 1984).

²⁰⁵ Bates, Infantino & McLaughlin, *Murder on the Rocks*, *supra* note 204, at 18-23.

²⁰⁶ MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SECRET WARS (comic book series May 1984 – Apr. 1985).

²⁰⁷ CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS (comic book series Apr. 1985 – Mar. 1986).

²⁰⁸ See Blumberg & Vaughn, *supra* note 36, at 951.

²⁰⁹ Matt Wagner, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*, in 5 MAGE [1], [22-27] (Jan. 1985).

²¹⁰ An International Catalog of Superheroes, Sean Knight, <http://www.internationalhero.co.uk/s/seannite.htm> (last visited May 15, 2007).

²¹¹ Wagner, *supra* note 209.

²¹² Gabrielle Haller first appeared in a flashback story in Chris Claremont, Dave Cockrum & Bob Wiacek, *Gold Rush!*, in 161 THE UNCANNY X-MEN [1], [8-14] (Louise Jones & Jim Shooter eds., Sept. 1982).

became defense counsel for Magneto when he surrendered to authorities and was placed on trial for his various crimes.²¹³

A new Native American character was also introduced in the early 1980s. This time the character was the legal counsel for the Dakota tribes.²¹⁴ Michael Blackfeather was a normal attorney until his latent mutation was mechanically triggered and he gained the ability to turn into the flying creature the Werehawk.²¹⁵

VIII. The Attorney in Modern Comic Books: 1985-2007²¹⁶

After the major changes to characters by both DC and Marvel Comics in their mini-series *Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars* and *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, a few years passed before new attorney characters appeared. Only a few attorneys were introduced for the rest of the 1980s and all but two of them were non super-powered supporting characters. Readers were introduced to the lawyer for the super team, The Avengers, one Mr. Costello, in 1986.²¹⁷ Two years later readers met Felix Alvarez, a lawyer who was promoted to Chief Operating Officer of Stark Enterprises, home of Iron Man.²¹⁸ Mr. Alvarez is believed to be the first corporate counsel shown in comic books. In 1988, the father of the teen-age character Speedball appeared as the

²¹³ Chris Claremont, John Romita, Jr. & Dan Green, *The Trial of Magneto*, in 200 THE UNCANNY X-MEN [1], [3] (Ann Nocenti & Jim Shooter eds., Dec. 1985).

²¹⁴ Dave Cockrum, *The Futurians*, in 9 MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL [1], [15-19] (Al Milgrom & Jim Shooter eds., 1983).

²¹⁵ *Id.*

²¹⁶ The time period covered by this section actually contains two recognized comic book ages, the Copper Age (1984-1992) and the Modern Age (1992-present). (See Blumberg & Vaughn, *supra* note 36, at 951). For convenience, both of these ages are discussed in a single section.

²¹⁷ Mr. Costello was introduced in Roger Stern, John Buscema & Tom Palmer, *Wild in the Streets*, in 270 THE AVENGERS [1], [21] (Mark Gruenwald & Jim Shooter eds., Aug. 1986).

²¹⁸ Mr. Alvarez first appeared in David Michelinie, Bob Layton Sr. & Jackson Guice, *Two Live or Die in L.A.*, in 238 IRON MAN [1], 17-18 (Howard Mackie & Tom DeFalco eds., Jan. 1989).

town district attorney.²¹⁹ Without realizing that his son was a superhero, he spearheaded a crackdown on vigilante activities, especially the activities of costumed superheroes.²²⁰

Several criminal defense attorneys showed up as minor characters in various stories throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s. Defense lawyer Charles Blackwater was killed by one of his clients, but was resurrected and served as one of the members of The Legion of Night, an organization committed to battling the forces of the occult.²²¹ The award for the most unlikely defense attorney goes to Lieutenant Worf of *Star Trek, The Next Generation* as he discovered that in an alternate timeline in which the Klingons were peaceful, he became a defense attorney.²²² The overall oddest defense attorney was Anne Weying, the ex-wife of Eddie Brock before he merged with the creature Venom.²²³ When she was injured Brock sent Venom to merge with her and heal her, but merging with Venom turned her into a killer.²²⁴ The experience did lasting damage to her mental condition and she ended up committing suicide.²²⁵ Other defense attorneys also appeared in limited roles.²²⁶ In the late 1980s, another woman went from

²¹⁹ Steve Ditko & Tom DeFalco, Roger Stern & Jackson Guice, *Speedball, The Masked Marvel*, in 1 SPEEDBALL [1], 2, 15 (Howard Mackie, Terry Kavanagh & Tom DeFalco eds., Sept. 1988).

²²⁰ See SPEEDBALL (comic book series Oct. 1988 – July 1989).

²²¹ Steve Gerber, Whilce Portacio & Scott Williams, *Messenger from the Dead*, in 1 THE LEGION OF NIGHT [1], [6-35] (Ralph Macchio, Len Kaminski & Tom DeFalco eds., Oct. 1991).

²²² Howard Weinstein, Rob Davis & Arne Starr, *Seems Like Old Times*, in 57 STAR TREK [1], 23 (Alan Gold ed., Feb. 1994).

²²³ Anne Weying was first shown in David Michelinie, Mark Bagley & Randy Emberlin, *The Bride of Venom*, in 375 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2, 8-9 (Mike Lackey, Danny Fingerth & Tom DeFalco eds., Mar. 1993). Venom made his first appearance as Spider-Man's black costume in Roger Stern, Tom DeFalco, Ron Frenz & Brett Breeding, *Homecoming*, in 252 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1 (Danny Fingerth & Jim Shooter eds., May 1984). He and Eddie Brock also have prominent roles in the *Spider-Man 3* movie. However, Anne Weying does not appear in the movie. SPIDER-MAN 3 (Columbia Pictures 2007).

²²⁴ Larry Hama, Greg Luzniak & Scott Koblish, *Redeemable Upon Request*, in 2 VENOM: SINNER TAKES ALL [1], [12-13], [16-17], [22] (Tom Brevoort & Bob Budiansky eds., Sept. 1995).

²²⁵ Howard Mackie, Erik Larsen & John Beatty, *Mirror Mirror*, in 19 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN [1], [21-22] (Ralph Macchio & Bob Harras eds., July 2000).

²²⁶ Spider-Man's friend Flash Thompson had to get a defense attorney (Tom DeFalco, Peter David, Jo Duffy, Mike Harris & Vince Colletta, *If This Be Justice*, in 278 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN [1], [6] (Jim Owsley & Jim Shooter eds., July 1986)) as did the heroes the Sub-Mariner (John Byrne, *Out of Sight Out of Mind*, in 6 NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER [1], [11] (Terry Kavanagh & Tom DeFalco eds., Sept. 1990)), Marvel Boy (Fabian Nicieza, Mark Bagley & Larry Mahlstedt, *The Folding Circle*, in 21 THE NEW WARRIORS [1], [8-10] (Danny Fingerth ed., Mar. 1992)) (his lawyer was Foggy Nelson), Mr. Muscle (Bob Rozakis, Stephen DeStephano & Kurt Schaffenberger, *Bombs*

being a lawyer to a mindless green monster, but unlike the She-Hulk, the Ogress remained essentially mindless.²²⁷

The 1990s brought about the introduction of dozens of new lawyers in addition to the defense attorneys already noted. While many new lawyers were introduced in the pages of comic books, others found their way into comic books after appearing in the movies or on television.

Three new African-American lawyer heroes were introduced during the early 1990s. The first of these, Shadowhawk, alias Paul Johnstone, was also the first HIV-positive character in comic books, although his infection was contracted from being injected with an infected syringe in retaliation for prosecuting a mobster.²²⁸ The next, Augustus Friedman, only appeared to be an African-American attorney. He was actually a shape changing alien who had crashed in the American south in 1839 and taken on the appearance of the first person he saw.²²⁹ A young friend talked him into becoming the hero Icon.²³⁰ Finally, the character of B-Sting (former African-American district attorney Jonathan Riker) also appears to have originated in the 1990s,

Away, in 4 HERO HOTLINE [1], 23 (Brian Augustyn ed., July 1989), and the Scarlet Spider (J.M. DeMatteis, Mark Bagley, [Larry] Mahlstedt & [Sam] DeLaRosa, *The Trial of Peter Parker, Part 2 of 4: Judgment at Bedlam*, in 403 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN [1], [8] (Danny Fingeroth & Bob Budiansky eds., July 1995)). Also introduced was the lawyer for gang leader Lotus Newmark, Auggie Slater (Steve Gerber, Al Milgrom & Don Heck, *Hit and Run*, in 31 AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT 1 (Apr. 1990)) (as identified by Jeff Christiansen et al., The Appendix to the Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Stone Perfs (gang, Hawkeye Foes), <http://www.marvunapp.com/Appendix3/stoneperfgang.htm#slater> (last visited June 14, 2007). Attorney Stuart McPhee assisted Spider-Man friend Joseph "Robbie" Robertson in getting a presidential pardon by working with Robertson's defense counsel (Gerry Conway, Sal Buscema & Mike Esposito, "These Shattered Senses" or "A Tale of the Brothers Grimm," in 159 THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN [1], 9-10 (Jim Salicrup & Tom DeFalco eds., Dec. 1989)).

²²⁷ For the first appearance of the woman named Diane, who became the Ogress, see Peter David, Todd McFarlane, Jim Sanders III & Chris Ivy, *Closing Curtain*, in 345 THE INCREDIBLE HULK [1], 2, 17 (Bob Harras & Tom DeFalco eds., July 1988). The Ogress, in her green form, appeared several years later in Peter David, Jeff Purves & Marie Severin, *Countdown...The Leader*, in 366 THE INCREDIBLE HULK 1, 24 (Bobbie Chase & Tom DeFalco eds., Feb. 1990).

²²⁸ [Valentinocomics.com](http://www.valentinocomics.com), Paul Johnstone, <http://www.valentinocomics.com/shadowhawk2b.html> (last visited June 14, 2007).

²²⁹ An International Catalog of Superheroes, Icon, <http://www.internationalhero.co.uk/i/icon.htm> (last visited May 30, 2007) & Dwayne McDuffie, M. D. Bright & Mike Gustovich, *By Their Own Bootstraps*, in 1 ICON [1], 3-4 (May 1993).

²³⁰ An International Catalog of Superheroes, *supra* note 229.

but no information regarding the date or location of his first appearance could be located.²³¹ One other minority attorney was also introduced during the late 1990s. Attorney Billy Honanie and his cousin, artist Drew Quayatt, both full blooded Native Americans with a mix of both Hopi and Pueblo Indian blood, were granted superpowers by mystical forces, and battled crime in the American southwest as the Peace Party.²³²

Other comic book attorneys also appeared as superheroes (and villains) for the first time during the 1990s. Foggy Nelson's great-great grandson became the first Daredevil of the year 2099.²³³ Foggy Nelson also plays a role in stories about a second attorney hero. In a second comic book devoted to the actions of heroes in one possible future, Foggy Nelson hired Reilly Tyne to work for his firm.²³⁴ Reilly was the son of the Spider-Man clone, the Scarlet Spider, and was changed by the spirit of Daredevil and the demon Zarathos into the hero called Darkdevil.²³⁵ During the late 1990s, DC Comics introduced Resurrection Man, a former attorney who had been subjected to an experiment involving nanotechnology.²³⁶ The nanotechnology organisms in his bloodstream resurrected him each time he was killed and give him a new superpower.²³⁷

Also during the late 1990s, a villain known as Reverend Achebe, a nemesis of the hero Black

²³¹ An International Catalog of Superheroes, B-Sting, <http://www.internationalhero.co.uk/b/bsting.htm> (last visited May 15, 2007).

²³² Rob Schmidt, Ron Fattoruso & Mike Kelleher, *Beginnings*, in 1 PEACE PARTY [1], [3-7] [1999], available at <http://www.bluecorncomics.com/pp1pages.htm> (last visited May 15, 2007). (Cover and first seven pages only).

²³³ See *supra* text accompanying notes 114 - 120 for information regarding Foggy Nelson and Warren Ellis, Dale Eaglesham & Scott Koblish, *Mid Day Sun*, in 2099 GENESIS [1], [13-14], [19-23], [35-37] (Joey Cavalieri ed., Jan. 1996) for the only appearance of Eric Nelson (unnamed); Jeff Christiansen et al, The Appendix to the Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Dara-darc, <http://www.marvunapp.com/master/daradrkc.htm> (last visited June 14, 2007) (entry for Daredevil 2099 (Eric Nelson)). When the *Daredevil 2099* series began, the new Daredevil of the year 2099 had a different identity and was not an attorney. See Robert Kirkman, Karl Moline, Mike Perkins & Rick Magyar, *Daredevil 2099*, in 1 DAREDEVIL 2099 1 (Ton Brevoort & Joe Quesada eds., Nov. 2004).

²³⁴ Reilly Tyne first appeared as Darkdevil in Tom Defalco, Pat Olliffe & Al Williamson, *Bedeviled*, in 2 SPIDER-GIRL [1], [5-7] (Bob Harras ed., Nov. 1998), but was not shown out of costume until Tom Defalco, Pat Olliffe & Al Williamson, *Overkill*, in 34 SPIDER-GIRL [1], [14] (Matt Hicks & Joe Quesada eds., July 2001) when it was revealed that Reilly was working for Foggy Nelson.

²³⁵ See Tom Defalco, Ron Frenz & Al Milgrom, *The Cursed*, in 2 DARKDEVIL [1], [8-9] (Matt Hicks & Joe Quesada eds., Dec. 2000).

²³⁶ Andy Lanning, Dan Abnett & Butch Guice, *"Resurrection Man"*, in 1 RESURRECTION MAN [1], 5, 7, [23] (Eddie Berganza ed., May 1997).

²³⁷ See RESURRECTION MAN (comic book series May 1997 – Aug. 1999).

Panther, was revealed to have gone to Yale Law School where he earned a Ph.D. in Law.²³⁸

Thus, a villain is the only attorney in comic books to be shown as having earned an advanced degree in law.

Non-superhero attorneys also appeared in force during the 1990s. Insomniac Don Weideman, came first, in 1990, as he discovered during his sleepless nights that his neighbors had the ability to change into a talking six foot cat and an extra large talking rat (with glasses).²³⁹ After following them, Don became friends with them and got involved as they went on their adventures.²⁴⁰ *The Protectors* comic book series in 1992 reintroduced Golden Age hero Brian O'Brian (The Clock).²⁴¹ Time had been good to him and while he was still an attorney, he had given up his district attorney job to become President of the United States.²⁴² As in prior decades, the district attorney was the most represented legal profession, with six district attorneys making recurring appearances in various titles.²⁴³ Other district attorneys made single appearances but did not reappear. During the 1990s, many other attorneys also appeared in various supporting roles. The first series of *Strangers in Paradise* introduced the character of Freddie Femur, an

²³⁸ Marvel Comics Group, Marvel Universe: The Definitive Online Source for Marvel Super Hero Bios: Achebe, <http://www.marvel.com/universe/Achebe> (last visited May 30, 2007). Special Note: Yale University Law School does not actually offer a Ph.D. in law. Yale Law School, Degree Programs, <http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/degreeprograms.asp> (last visited May 30, 2007).

²³⁹ Diane M. Piron, Hannibal King & Mike Gustovich, *Odds 'n Even*, in 1 BATS, CATS AND CADILLACS [1], [1]-5 (Katherine Llewellyn & Tony Caputo eds., Oct. 1990). Although Don's profession was alluded to in this issue (*Id.* at [1], 22-23), it is not confirmed until issue #2 (Diane M. Piron, Hannibal King & Mike Gustovich, *On the House*, in 2 BATS, CATS AND CADILLACS [1], [1] (Katherine Llewellyn & Tony Caputo eds., Nov. 1990).

²⁴⁰ *Odds 'n Even*, *supra* note 239.

²⁴¹ See Jones, *supra* note 34.

²⁴² *Id.*

²⁴³ The recurring district attorney characters were (first known appearance in parenthesis): a female district attorney known only as Guillermo (Danny Fingerth, Al Milgrom, Kerry Gammill & Mike Machlan, *The Price of Justice*, in 2 DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN [1], [16], [24] (Terry Kavanagh ed., June 1991)), Kathy Malper (D.G. Chichester, Lee Weeks & Al Williamson, *Part Three: Regicide*, in 299 DAREDEVIL 1, 12-17 (Ralph Macchio & Tom DeFalco eds., Dec. 1991)), Olivia Lentz ([Dan] Slott, [John] Calimee & [Greg] Adams, *Trial Run: Past the Bars*, in 2 VENOM: SINNER TAKES ALL [23], [23-24] ([Tom] Brevoort & [Bob] Budiansky eds., Sept. 1995)), Gracia Hidalgo (Larry Hama, Josh Hood & Derek Fisher, *Law & Order*, in 1 VENOM: ON TRIAL [1], [20] (Tom Brevoort & Bob Harras eds., Mar. 1997)), Vivian Raintree (Assistant Attorney General) (Larry Hama, Derec Aucoin, Ralph Cabrera & Rich Faber, *Dr. Yes*, in 1 VENOM: LICENSE TO KILL [1], [6-7] (Tom Brevoort & Bob Harras eds., June 1997)) & Janice Porter (Jeph Loeb & Tim Sale, [untitled story], in 1 BATMAN: DARK VICTORY [1], 19-22 (Dec. 1999)).

attorney who was the boyfriend of one of the main characters until he broke off the relationship with her in the first issue.²⁴⁴ He continued being a regular character through all three of the incarnations of the *Strangers in Paradise* title.²⁴⁵ Female district attorney Darcy Conroy was introduced in the pages of *Kurt Busiek's Astro City* series,²⁴⁶ while the character of Lucille (no last name ever revealed) from Frank Miller's *Sin City* series changed from being a parole officer to a lawyer.²⁴⁷ Lucille was the first homosexual attorney in comic books and currently is the only lesbian character to work as an attorney.²⁴⁸ The new secret identity of Thor was Eric Masterson, a divorced architect, who needed the services of divorce attorney Samantha Joyce to fight a custody battle.²⁴⁹ The mother of the young superhero Darkhawk was attorney Grace Powell.²⁵⁰ During the 1990s, Captain America and girlfriend Bernadette Rosenthal broke off their relationship and he began dating another attorney, Connie Ferrari.²⁵¹ Attorneys in the employ of the United States government (other than prosecutors) made their first appearances in the 1990s. Everett Ross was employed by the U.S. State Department and Sachi Yama was assigned to a

²⁴⁴ Terry Moore, *Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*, in 1 STRANGERS IN PARADISE [1], [5-9], [21-23] (Gold Series Reprint May 1997).

²⁴⁵ Terry Moore, The Strangers in Paradise Website: Freddy Femur, <http://www.strangersinparadise.com/characters/freddie.html> (last visited May 15, 2007). See also STRANGERS IN PARADISE (comic book series Nov. 1993 – Feb. 1994), STRANGERS IN PARADISE (comic book series (Sept. 1994 – July 1996) & STRANGERS IN PARADISE (comic book series Oct. 1996 – May 2007).

²⁴⁶ Kurt Busiek & Brent Anderson, *Safeguards*, in 4 KURT BUSIEK'S ASTRO CITY [1], [6] (Ann Huntington Busiak ed., Nov. 1995).

²⁴⁷ Lucille first appeared as the parole officer of the character Marv in Frank Miller, *Sin City Episode Three*, in 52 DARK HORSE PRESENTS [17], [23-27] (July 1991). She was revealed to have been the lawyer for former police officer John Hartigan in Frank Miller, [untitled story], in 4 SIN CITY: THAT YELLOW BASTARD [1], 3-12 (May 1996). Lucille, played by Carla Gugino, appeared in the *Sin City* movie only in her role as Marv's parole officer. SIN CITY (Dimension Films 2005).

²⁴⁸ Cf. Gay League, Characters, <http://www.gayleague.com/gay/characters/index.php> (last visited May 15, 2007). Lucille is not listed on this page; however, the page lists only major gay, lesbian, and bisexual characters from comic books. One could assume that since she was only a supporting character, she is not considered important enough to list; however, none of the other lesbian or female bisexual characters listed are attorneys.

²⁴⁹ First appeared in Tom DeFalco, Ron Frenz & Joe Sinnott, *Beyond Courage Must I Strive*, in 414 THOR [1], 2-3 (Ralph Macchio ed., Feb. 1990).

²⁵⁰ Danny Fingerhuth & Mike Manley, *Dawn of the Darkhawk*, in 1 DARKHAWK [1], [5-6] (Howard Mackie & Tom DeFalco eds., Mar. 1991).

²⁵¹ See *supra* notes 184 & 186 and accompanying text. Connie Ferrari first appeared in Mark Waid, Andy Kubert & Jesse Delperdang, *First Gleaming*, in 15 CAPTAIN AMERICA [1], [12-13] (Matt Idelson & Bob Harras eds., Mar. 1999). She and Steve Rogers (Captain America) began dating in Mark Waid, Andy Kubert & Jesse Delperdang, *Danger in the Air*, in 20 CAPTAIN AMERICA [1], [4-7] (Bobbie Chase & Bob Harras eds., Aug. 1999).

federal commission to supervise the activities of the villain the Juggernaut.²⁵² In the alternate future world of Spider-Girl, Sachi Yama was shown as an assistant district attorney who had married Juggernaut, and become the mother of the hero J₂.²⁵³

For the first time since the 1960s, attorneys from movies and animated television shows made the move to comic books. Lawyers Lionel Hutz, Gil Gunderson, and the unnamed head of the law firm representing Mr. Burns' interests appeared not only in *The Simpsons* television show, but also made appearances in various issues of *Simpsons Comics*.²⁵⁴ Cher Horowitz and her attorney father, Mel, from the *Clueless* movie and television show were also featured in a single comic book in 1997.²⁵⁵

The turn of the century saw another character from animated television and comic books become an attorney. The Hanna-Barbera character Birdman gave up crime fighting and became defense attorney Harvey Birdman, who specialized in defending characters from other animated television shows (many of whom had also appeared in comic books), such as Jonny Quest,²⁵⁶

²⁵² Everet Ross first appeared as a defense attorney for the hero Ka-Zar (See Christopher Priest, Kenny Martinez & Anibal Rodriguez, *Misery*, in 17 KA-ZAR [1], [5], [7-9] (Matt Idelson & Bob Harras eds., Sept. 1998)), but made appearances in various other titles (See Christiansen, *supra* note 186 (entry for Ross, Everett) for a list of appearances in other titles). Sachi Yama appeared first in Fabian Niecieza, Kevin Maguire & Andrew Pepoy, *Tomorrow Begins Today*, in 6 X-MEN FOREVER [2], [33] (Pete Franco, Brian Smith, Mark Powers & Ralph Macchio eds., June 2001).

²⁵³ See Tom Defalco, Ron Lim & Al Milgrom, *Call the Kid...J₂*, in 1 J₂ [1], [3] (Bob Harras ed., Nov. 1998).

²⁵⁴ For list of all of the appearances of Lionel Hutz and Mr. Burns' unnamed lawyer see Haynes Lee, The Simpsons Archive: The Lionel Hutz File, <http://www.snpp.com/guides/hutz.file.html> (last visited May 15, 2007). Appearances of Lionel Hutz in *The Simpsons* television show are listed in section 3 ("Case History"). Lionel Hutz's comic book appearances are listed in section 8 ("Bongo Comics"). Appearances (both television and comic book) of Mr. Burns' lawyer appear in section 4 ("Who is this Other Lawyer"). Jordan Eisneberg & Wesley Mead, The Simpsons Archive: The Gil File, <http://www.snpp.com/guides/gil.file.html> (last visited May 15, 2007) identifies three episodes of the Simpsons television program and one issue of *Simpsons Comics* in which Gil Gunderson works as a lawyer. See also *The Simpsons* (Fox television series 1989-present) and SIMPSONS COMICS (comic book series [Nov] 1993-present).

²⁵⁵ Jack Enyart & S.M. Taggart, *The Girl Mousse Likely*, in 1 CLUELESS SPRING SPECIAL 6, 9-12 (Amy Weingartner ed., May 1997) & Jack Enyart & Dave Hoover, *The Durette Ranch*, in 1 CLUELESS SPRING SPECIAL 40, 40; CLUELESS (Paramount Pictures 1995); *Clueless* (ABC television series 1996-1997); *Clueless* (UPN television series 1997-1999).

²⁵⁶ *Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law: Bannon Custody Battle* (Cartoon Network television broadcast Dec. 30, 2000). Jonny Quest has appeared two television series as well as three comic book series. See *Jonny Quest* (ABC television series 1964-1965), *Jonny Quest* (Syndicated television series by Hanna Barbera Productions 1987),

Scooby-Doo and Shaggy,²⁵⁷ and Fred Flintstone²⁵⁸ in addition to many others.²⁵⁹ Also appearing in the series as an attorney is the 1970s hero The Blue Falcon (along with his pal Dynamutt).²⁶⁰ While both Birdman and The Blue Falcon did appear in comic books as superheroes, neither has appeared in their attorney roles as of the time of this writing.²⁶¹

Both DC Comics' Josiah Power and Marvel Comics' Evangeline Whedon were practicing attorneys until their superpowers emerged.²⁶² Neither wanted their powers, nor did they want to give up being attorneys.²⁶³ However, prejudice against super-powered individuals drove Mr. Power from his law firms and almost cost Ms. Whedon her life.²⁶⁴ Josiah founded a

JONNY QUEST (comic book Dec. 1964), JONNY QUEST (comic book series June 1986- Dec. 1988), and JONNY QUEST CLASSICS (comic book series May 1987- July 1987).

²⁵⁷ *Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law: Shaggy Busted*, (Cartoon Network television broadcast July 7, 2002). Scooby-Doo has appeared in numerous movies, television and comic book series. For a list of the movies and television shows starring Scooby-Doo see Wikipedia.com, Scooby-Doo, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scooby-Doo> (last visited May 15, 2007). For information on the various comic book titles that have starred Scooby-Doo, See Overstreet, *supra* note 65, at 819.

²⁵⁸ *Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law: The Dabba Don*, (Cartoon Network television broadcast July 28, 2002). Fred Flintstone appeared in the television show *The Flintstones* (ABC television series 1960-1966) as well as at least twenty-one television movies (see Internet Movie Database, Keyword Flintstones, <http://www.imdb.com/keyword/flintstones/> (last visited may 15, 2007)). In addition, he has appeared in at least seven different comic book series. See Overstreet, *supra* note 55, at 594.

²⁵⁹ Cf. *Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law* (Cartoon Network television series 2000-present).

²⁶⁰ *Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law: Deadomutt* (parts 1 & 2) (Cartoon Network television broadcast May 25 & June 1, 2002).

²⁶¹ The Blue Falcon and Dynamutt have appeared in three comic book series: DYNAMUTT (comic book series Nov. 1977 – Sept. 1978), LAFF-A-LYMPICS (comic book series Mar. 1978-Mar. 1979), and SCOOBY-DOO (comic book series Oct. 1977- Feb. 1979). Birdman appeared, in his non-attorney guise, in HANNA-BARBERA SUPER TV HEROES (comic book series Apr. 1968 – Oct. 1969) (issues 1-5 only) and in both Terrance Griep & Peter Gross, *Act of Kindness*, in 5 CARTOON NETWORK PRESENTS [2] (Bronwyn Taggart ed., Dec. 1997) and Michael Kraiger, J.J. Birch & Mike DeCarlo, *Birdman in a Gilded Cage*, in 9 CARTOON NETWORK PRESENTS [15] (Bronwyn Taggart ed., Apr. 1998); An International Catalog of Superheroes, Birdman, <http://www.internationalhero.co.uk/b/birdman1.htm> (last visited June 21, 2007).

²⁶² Josiah Power first appeared in Kurt Busiek, Tom Grummett & Wade Von Grawbadger, *The Power Principle*, in 61 JLA [23], [31-33] (Stephen Wacker & Peter Tomasi eds., Feb. 2002). His history was revealed in Kurt Busiek, Keith Giffen & Al Milgrom, *Career Opportunities*, in 1 THE POWER COMPANY: JOSIAH POWER [1], 2, 5-7 (Steve Wacker & Peter Tomasi eds., Mar. 2002). Evangeline Whedon first appeared in Chris Claremont & Salvador Larroca, *Schism Part 2: Broken Faith*, in 21 X-TREME X-MEN [1], [3], [6-11] (Nova Ren Suma, Andrew Lis, Mike Raicht, Mike Markts & Joe Quesada eds., Apr. 2003).

²⁶³ Busiek, Giffen & Milgrom, *supra* note 262; Claremont & Larroca, *supra* note 262.

²⁶⁴ Busiek, Giffen & Milgrom, *supra* note 262; Claremont & Larroca, *supra* note 262.

firm of superheroes for hire,²⁶⁵ while Evangeline became the attorney for the X-men.²⁶⁶ Josiah was also the first gay male attorney to be shown in comic books.²⁶⁷

Attorney superheroes did not all face discrimination for their powers in the new century; Although she lost her job as an assistant prosecutor due to her celebrity status, She-Hulk was quickly offered a new job by the prestigious law firm of Goodman, Lieber, Kurtzberg & Holliway because she was a good attorney not because she was a superhero.²⁶⁸ Several attorneys regularly appear in *She-Hulk* comic books as members of this firm.²⁶⁹ The most predominant of these are Mallory Book, Augustus Pugliese, and firm partner Holden Holliway.²⁷⁰ The firm of Goodman, Lieber, Kurtzberg & Holliway, much like Harvey Birdman, specializes in representing superheroes and has been known to use comic books as legal precedent.²⁷¹

Attorneys also appeared in other capacities during the decade. Both Kate Spencer (the newest incarnation of the Manhunter) and her friend Damon Matthews serve as federal prosecutors.²⁷² The movie *Batman Begins* introduced a close childhood friend of Bruce Wayne who became an attorney, Rachel Dawes (played by Katie Holmes).²⁷³ Rachel also appeared in

²⁶⁵ Busiek, Grummett & Grawbadger, *supra* note 262.

²⁶⁶ Marc-Oliver Frisch, Eric J. Moreels & Brian E. Wilkinson, X-MEN: THE 198 FILES 44 (Mike Marts, Michael Short, Jeff Youngquist & Joe Quesada eds., Mar. 2006) (entry for Whedon, Evangeline).

²⁶⁷ The Gay League, Josiah Power, <http://www.gayleague.com/gay/characters/display.php?id=120> (Last visited May 15, 2007). For the first homosexual attorney character (a lesbian) see Miller, *supra* note 247.

²⁶⁸ Dan Slott, Juan Bobillo & Marcelo Sosa, *The Girl From Gamma Gamma Gamma*, in 1 SHE-HULK [1], [17], [20-21] ([Andy] Schmidt, [Nicole] Wiley & Tom Brevoort eds., May 2004).

²⁶⁹ See SHE-HULK (comic book series May 2004 – Apr. 2005) (hereinafter SHE-HULK 2004), and SHE-HULK (comic book series Dec. 2005 – present) (hereinafter SHE-HULK 2005), see also See Marvel Comics Group, Marvel Universe: The Definitive Online Source for Marvel Super Hero Bios: Goodman, Lieber, Kurtzberg, & Holliway, http://www.marvel.com/universe/Goodman,_Lieber,_Kurtzberg,_&_Holliway (last visited May 15, 2007).

²⁷⁰ See SHE-HULK 2004, *supra* note 269 & SHE-HULK 2005, *supra* note 269. All three characters first appeared in Slott, Bobillo & Sosa, *supra* note 268, at 8.

²⁷¹ Marvel Comics Group, *supra* note 269.

²⁷² Marc Andreyko, Jesus Saiz & Jimmy Palmiotti, *Shedding Skin*, in 1 MANHUNTER [1], [4-9], [14], [16] (Harvey Richards & Joan Hilty eds., Oct. 2004). Like Josiah Power, Damon Matthews is gay. See Gay League, Damon Matthews, <http://www.gayleague.com/gay/characters/display.php?id=210> (last visited June 21, 2007).

²⁷³ BATMAN BEGINS (Warner Brothers Pictures 2005).

the comic book adaptation of the movie.²⁷⁴ In 2005, Chicago lawyer Luke Gabriel was inspired by an elderly client to take the client's place as the replacement Mr. Smoke.²⁷⁵ It was also revealed that X-men associate, Madrox, the Multiple Man, had sent one of his duplicate bodies to law school.²⁷⁶ Again in the new century, several new attorney characters were introduced in the pages of the *Daredevil* comic book. These include defense attorney Kate Vinokur who defended Daredevil,²⁷⁷ prosecuting attorney Mr. Delacourt,²⁷⁸ egotistical attorney Claude Unger who blames his clients when he loses,²⁷⁹ and Alton Lennox, a lawyer who was caught up in the attempted assassination of Foggy Nelson.²⁸⁰ Another well known character consulted an attorney during the decade; Professor X of the X-men consulted attorney Jack White when faced with the possibility of having a court order him to surrender all young mutants to the authorities.²⁸¹

Several vigilantes, who first appeared during this period, also had ties to the legal system. The character of the Judge was formerly Michael Hart, a lawyer and criminal court judge before

²⁷⁴ Scott Beatty, Kilian Plunkett & Serge Lapointe, *BATMAN BEGINS: THE OFFICIAL MOVIE ADAPTATION* [1], [3-4], [29-31], [48] (June 2005).

²⁷⁵ Charles William Satterlee, Claude St. Aubin & Kevin Bretfogle, [untitled story], in 1 *SMOKE AND MIRROR* [1], [11-12], [18], [20-21] (Erik Enervold ed., Aug. 2005) and Tonya Crawford, *Seeing Through the Smoke and Mirror*, <http://www.brokenfrontier.com/lowdown/details.php?id=548> (last visited May 15, 2007).

²⁷⁶ Jeff Christiansen et al., *The Appendix to the Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Madb-Madz*, <http://www.marvunapp.com/master/madbmadz.htm> (entry for Madrox) (last visited June 1, 2007).

²⁷⁷ Bob Gale, Phil Winslade & James Hodgkins, *Legal Question*, in 22 *DAREDEVIL* [1], [6-11] (Stuart Moore, Nanci Dakesian, Kelly Lamy & Joe Quesada eds., Oct. 2001); Jeff Christiansen et al., *The Appendix to the Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Kate Vinokur*, <http://www.marvunapp.com/Appendix/vinokurk.htm> (last visited June 1, 2007).

²⁷⁸ Brian Michael Bendis & Manuel Gutierrez, [untitled story], in 38 *DAREDEVIL* [1], [22-23] (Stuart Moore, Kelly Lamy, Nanci Dakesian & Joe Quesada eds., Dec. 2002).

²⁷⁹ Bob Gale, Phil Winslade & James Hodgkins, *Playing to the Camera Part 1: Redsuit Lawsuit*, in 20 *DAREDEVIL* [1], [7-9] (Stuart Moore, Kelly Lamy, Nanci Dakesian & Joe Quesada eds., Sept. 2001); Jeff Christiansen et al., *The Appendix to the Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Claude Unger*, <http://www.marvunapp.com/Appendix/ungercld.htm> (last visited June 1, 2007).

²⁸⁰ First mentioned in Ed Brubaker, Michael Lark & Stefano Gaudiano, *The Devil in Cell-Block D: Part Three*, in 84 *DAREDEVIL* [1], [16] (Axel Alonso, Warren Simons & Joe Quesada eds., June 2006).

²⁸¹ Chuck Austen, Ron Garney & Mark Morales, *Rules of Engagement: Part Two of Two*, in 422 *THE UNCANNY X-MEN* [1], [12], [28], [34-36] (Mike Marts, Mike Raicht & Joe Quesada eds., June 2003).

he was killed and brought back to “life” as a ghostly killer of criminals.²⁸² The new Crimson Avenger was an unnamed African-American law student who lost someone close to her due to criminal activity.²⁸³ She purchased two revolvers originally owned by the original Crimson Avenger to take the law into her own hands and execute the criminal who killed her loved one.²⁸⁴ Unbeknownst to her, the guns were cursed and now force her to avenge the death of innocents.²⁸⁵ Catalina Flores, sister of a district attorney, also became the criminal-killing vigilante, the Tarantula.²⁸⁶

Some outright villains who were also attorneys were introduced in the new century as well. Sharon Ginsberg first appeared as the lawyer for agent Solomon O’Sullivan in the series *X-Statix*.²⁸⁷ Her first function was to serve a cease and desist order on X-Force to prevent one of Solomon’s clients from appearing on television with the superhero group, but after losing her wings (her superpower) she turned against the legal system.²⁸⁸ The newest incarnation of The Flash encountered Gregory Wolfe, a sadistic prison warden who had been a prosecutor.²⁸⁹ Wolfe had the ability to cause pain through mentally inducing muscle spasms and frequently tortured the prisoners under his jurisdiction.²⁹⁰ Attorney Arkady Dread was a member of the supernatural

²⁸² Bill Rosemann & Guy Davis, *Deadline*, in 1 DEADLINE [1], [12-13], [19-20] (Marc Sumerak, Jeff Youngquist & Tom Brevoort eds., June 2002). See *supra* note 79 and accompanying text for an earlier character also known as the Judge.

²⁸³ Geoff Johns, Don Kramer & Keith Champagne, *Blinded*, in 53 JSA [1], [1] (Stephen Wacker & Peter Tomasi eds., Dec. 2003).

²⁸⁴ *Id.*

²⁸⁵ *Id.*

²⁸⁶ See Devin Grayson, Rick Leonardi & Jesse Delperdang, *Something About Mary*, in 71 NIGHTWING [1], 4 (Michael Wright ed., Sept. 2002) for her first appearance and Devin Grayson, Rick Leonardi & Jesse Delperdang, *Judgment Day*, in 75 NIGHTWING [1], 16 (Michael Wright ed., Jan. 2003) for her first appearance as the Tarantula.

²⁸⁷ Peter Milligan & Mike Allred, *Good Omens Part 2 of Four: How the Super-Hero Business Works*, in 2 X-STATIX [1], [22] (John Miesegaes, Axel Alonso & Joe Quesada eds., Oct. 2002).

²⁸⁸ *Id.* & Peter Milligan & Mike Allred, *X-Statix: The Movie*, in 9 X-STATIX [1], [7-8] (May 2003).

²⁸⁹ Geoff Johns, Ethan Van Sciver & Prentis Rollins, [untitled story], in THE FLASH: IRON HEIGHTS [1], 13 (Aug. 2001); Geoff Johns & Brian Talbot, *Gregory Wolfe*, in 3 FLASH: SECRET FILES 35 (Stephen Wacker, Ivan Cohen, Mike McAvennie & Mike Carlin eds., Nov. 2001).

²⁹⁰ Kelson Vibber, Gregory Wolfe, <http://www.hyperborea.org/flash/wolfe.html> (last visited June 1, 2007).

beings known as The Others who operated in groups like crime families.²⁹¹ Finally, a recent retelling of the Captain Marvel story has recast long time Captain Marvel nemesis, Dr. Sivana as the United States Attorney General.²⁹²

The most recent attorney who was connected with a superhero mentioned in comics is the parent of the new heroine Slingshot.²⁹³ In her first appearance, Slingshot (Olivia Lews) was revealed to be one of the illegitimate children of hero Captain Dynamo.²⁹⁴ She was also identified as the daughter of a high-priced Washington, D.C. lawyer.²⁹⁵ It is unknown if it is her mother who is the attorney or if her mother is married and the father who raised her is the attorney. Since Olivia is African-American and Captain Dynamo was white, it is probable that her mother is African-American. If her mother turns out to be the attorney, this will mark the first mention of a female African-American attorney in a superhero comic book.²⁹⁶

The popularity of comic books has also led to two comic books specifically about attorneys. The comic book *Attorney Man* was recently created by a Boston attorney and is a tongue-in-cheek look billing and sales in the modern law firm.²⁹⁷ The Wisconsin Bar

²⁹¹ Robert Weinberg & Tom Derenick, *Ikkyu's Skull Part 1: Hostile Takeover*, in 1 NIGHTSIDE [1], [15-16] (Pete Franco, Mark Powers & Joe Quesada eds., Dec. 2001); Jeff Christiansen et al, The Appendix to the Handbook of the Marvel Universe: The Others, <http://www.marvunapp.com/Appendix/nsothers.htm> (last visited June 1, 2007).

²⁹² See Jeff Smith, *Chapter 2: NZIB GZPVH GSV XZPV!**, in 2 SHAZAM: THE MONSTER SOCIETY OF EVIL [1], [4] (May 2007).

²⁹³ Jay Faerber & Mahmud A. Asrar, [untitled story], in 1 DYNAMO 5 [1], [20] (Jan. 2007), available at <http://www.imagecomics.com/onlinecomics.php> (choose Dynamo 5 #1) (last visited May 15, 2007).

²⁹⁴ *Id.*

²⁹⁵ *Id.*

²⁹⁶ See *supra* note 144 for the first appearance of an African American female legal professional in comic books.

²⁹⁷ Karen Katz & Raul Gonzalez, *Attorney Man*, <http://www.attorneyman.org/> (last visited July 9, 2007) & Sacha Pfeiffer, *Superhero Accepts a Brief: Cartoon Teaches Sales to Introverted Lawyers*, THE BOSTON GLOBE, Oct. 16, 2006, at D1, available at http://www.boston.com/business/globe/articles/2006/10/16/superhero_accepts_a_brief (last visited July 9, 2007).

Association has also produced a comic book designed to inform children and young adults about the world of legal practice.²⁹⁸

IX. Conclusion

In any project which involves identifying literary characters matching a certain criterion, it is inevitable that some will be omitted. The sheer number of comic books produced over the last seventy plus years precludes checking each issue to see if an attorney was introduced; much reliance must be placed on databases or other materials that identify comic book characters. The characters identified in this article provide an overall sense of how comic books and strips portray lawyers. Obviously the details of legal work were not the first priority of attorney characters, especially in the early days of comic books. On the other hand, comic book lawyers frequently appeared in court scenes or performed duties one would normally expect a lawyer to perform. These lawyerly duties have been appearing with increasing frequency in the pages of comic books, with some comic books featuring stories that focus on legal procedures.²⁹⁹

But how exactly are attorneys treated in comic books? Until the 1960s, attorney characters were portrayed as the alter egos of vigilantes who beat confessions out of those criminal defendants who were lucky enough to be released on such technicalities as illegal searches, coerced confessions, and other pesky civil rights. If one chooses to ignore the obvious ethical problems inherent in being an officer of the court (a judge or district attorney), while at

²⁹⁸ State Bar of Wisconsin, *Adventures in Law-Comic Book*, http://www.wisbar.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=CLE_Books1&template=/Ecommerce/ProductDisplay.cfm&ProductID=1576 (last visited July 9, 2007).

²⁹⁹ See *supra* text accompanying notes 171 - 173 & *supra* text accompanying notes 268 - 271.

the same time acting as a vigilante who happily committed such crimes as breaking and entering, assault, battery, and even murder, attorneys were actually treated very well in comic books. Attorney villains were portrayed as having been highly moral and law abiding citizens until circumstances and mental illness caused them to break with their prior roots and turn to crime.

During the 1960s and extending into the modern era, a new breed of comic book attorney began appearing. While the attorney/vigilante was still popular, attorneys began to appear who were actually on the side of the accused. In the 1960s and 1970s, public defenders, civil rights and public interest attorneys not only appeared, but became superheroes.³⁰⁰ Also during this era, attorneys who were not superheroes began to appear en masse for the first time. While the majority of these attorneys were district attorneys, a significant number were not and by the 1990s, defense attorneys were appearing almost as often as prosecutors.

Attorneys who are not district attorneys are shown in a variety of settings including law firms and individual private practice. In the past thirty years, the attorney has shifted from merely being a secret identity to an actual profession in comic books, as more non-superhero attorneys have appeared and many have been shown doing actual legal work instead of merely occupying a law office while waiting to shift into their costume.

³⁰⁰ See *supra* text accompanying notes 121-124, 156-157 & 161-169.