CONTENTS

Foreword xi
SAM WATERSTON

Foreword xv
JAMES WOODS

Preface: Popular Culture Matters xix
MICHAEL ASIMOW

Introduction: The History of Law on Television xxvii
ELAYNE RAPPING

PART I
DRAMATIC LAWYER SERIES—THE GENRE 1

Chapter 1
Writing for Television: From Courtroom to Writer’s Room 5
JILL GOLDSMITH
- From Law to Writing 6
- Finding the First Opportunity 9
- Writing the Legal Drama 10
- Finding Stories 11
- Conclusion 14

Chapter 2
27 Years as a Television Legal Adviser and Counting . . . 15
CHARLES B. ROSENBERG
- Criminal Trials: The Perfect Dramatic Form for TV 16
- Constraints of the Genre and the TV Medium 17
- Choices Writers Must Make 21
### Chapter 7
**Gideon’s Trumpet: The “Very Best”**

*Norman Rosenberg*

- *Gideon’s Trumpet* and the Mystique of Quality Television 81
- Two Media Models: *12 Angry Men* and Henry Fonda 82
- *Gideon’s Trumpet* and Nostalgia 84
- *Gideon’s Trumpet* and the “Passage of Time” 86

### Chapter 8
**Revisiting L.A. Law**

*Philip N. Meyer*

- The Back Story 89
- The Pilot Episode—Summarizing Two Illustrative Subplots 92
- Observations 94
- Conclusion 99

### PART III
**THE AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM** 101

### Chapter 9
**Matlock—America’s Greatest Lawyer?**

*A Transatlantic Perspective*

*Steve Greenfield, Guy Osborn, and Peter Robson*

- Film and TV Lawyers 106
- TV Lawyers ’Round the World 108
- The Lifespan of TV Lawyers 110
- *L.A. Law* and *Matlock* in Britain 111
- Conclusion 114

### Chapter 10
**Law & Order**

*Shannon Mader*

- Ben Stone, Jack McCoy, and Adam Schiff 120
- Liberal and Conservative Critics of Tough-Guy Liberalism 125
Chapter 11
The Practice: Debunking Television Myths and Stereotypes 129
JEFFREY E. THOMAS
The Narratives 131
The Characters 136
Conclusion 139

Chapter 12
Murder One: The Adversary System Meets Celebrity Justice 141
MICHAEL ASIMOW
The Murder of Jessica Costello 143
The Lawyers: Teddy Hoffman and Miriam Grasso 144
The Adversary System Meets Celebrity Justice 146
Conclusion 149

Chapter 13
JAG: Maintaining the Front Lines of Justice 151
JUSTIN T. SMITH
JAG-of-All-Trades 152
Reality-Based Plots 153
Controversial Topics 155
Navy v. Marine Corps 157
Harm and Mac 158
Conclusion 161

Chapter 14
Swimming with Shark 163
NANCY B. RAPOPORT

PART IV
CRIMINAL JUSTICE—BRITISH SHOWS 175

Chapter 15
Rumpole and the Bowl of Comfort Food 177
PAUL BERGMAN
Introduction 177
Chapter 16
Blind Justice
YSAIAH ROSS
Introduction 189
The Episodes 191
Ethical Issues 193
Conclusion 194

Chapter 17
Kavanagh, QC
YSAIAH ROSS
River Court Chambers 195
Kavanagh’s Personal Life 196
The Episodes 197
Ethical Issues 201
Conclusion 202

Chapter 18
Judge John Deed: British TV Lawyers in the 21st Century
STEVE GREENFIELD, GUY OSBORN, AND PETER ROBSON
The Context 205
Here Comes the Judge 207

PART V
THE CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Chapter 19
Ally McBeal—Life and Love in the Law
CASSANDRA SHARP
The Characters 223
The Themes: The Reality of Life and Love in the Law 226
The Contribution of Ally McBeal to Public Perception 231
Conclusion 232
Chapter 20
Judging Amy  233
DAVID RAY PAPKE

Chapter 21
girls club Does Not Exist  243
JENNIFER L. SCHULZ

Chapter 22
Reality Bites: Boston Legal’s Creative License with the Law  253
CORINNE BRINKERHOFF

Chapter 23
Damages: The Truth Is Out There  265
CHRISTINE A. CORCOS

Chapter 24
French Television Lawyers in Avocats et Associés  275
BARBARA VILLEZ
  French and American Legal Procedure  276

Chapter 25
Divorce in Your Living Room: TV Lawyers in Spain’s Transition to Democracy  287
ANJA LOUIS

PART VI
DAYTIME TELEVISION JUDGES  297

Chapter 26
Judging Judge Judy  299
NANCY S. MARDER
  Teaching Harmful Lessons about Judges  300
  Blurring the Line Between Judging and Entertaining  302
Empowering Women 304
More Harm Than Good? 306

Chapter 27
Judging the Judges—Daytime Television’s Integrated Reality Court Bench 309
TAUNYA LOVELL BANKS
The Integration of the Reality Courtroom 310
Marketing the Judges 311
Conventional Justice Equals Ratings Popularity 315
The Good and Bad of Judicial Diversity on Daytime TV Reality Court Shows 316
The Bottom Line 317

Chapter 28
German Judge Shows: Migrating from the Courtroom to the TV Studio 321
STEFAN MACHURA
The History of German Judge Shows 321
The Superior Figure of the Judge 324
Why Are German TV Judge Shows So Popular? 326
The Adversary System in German Judge Shows 328
The Public’s Lesson 330

Chapter 29
Between the Lawyer and the Judge: Ratinho and the Virtual Delivery of Justice in Brazilian Reality Television 333
VICENTE RICCIO
Introduction 333
The Penal Law Model 335
The Civil Law Model 336
The Social Rights Model 338
Conclusion 340
PART VII
LAWYERS ON NON-LAW TV SHOWS 343

Chapter 30
Greener Acres 347
ANTHONY CHASE

Chapter 31
Seinfeld 353
ROBERT M. JARVIS
Lawyer Characters 353
Nonlawyer Characters 357
Conclusion 360

Chapter 32
The Funny Thing about Lawyers on The Simpsons 363
KIMBERLIANNE PODLAS
Taking The Simpsons Seriously 363
The Simpsons 363
Law-Talkin’ Guys on The Simpsons 365
Getting the Joke 374

Chapter 33
All Roads Lead to Rome, Wisconsin: Judge Henry Bone, Douglas Wambaugh, and the Strange World of Picket Fences 375
LANCE Mc MILLIAN

Chapter 34
Is There a Lawyer in the (White) House? Portraying Lawyers on The West Wing 385
KEITH A. ROWLEY
Trials and Tribbey-lations 386
The Model of a Modern (Associate) White House Counsel 388
Mighty Joe Quincy 390
Zen and the Art of Being White House Counsel 391
It’s About Duty 396

About the Authors 399

Index 411