Cinema and the Law: ***Are Lawyers Still our Heroes?***
Judge Louis H. Schiff, adjunct professor
Hamline University School of Law
Saturday, June 12, 2010 8:00 am - 3:45 pm and
Sunday, June 13, 2010; 8:00 am - 3:30 pm
One academic credit; CLE credits for Minnesota, applied for.

Course Description:

This course will explore the dynamic relationship of law and the cinema, focusing on how movies both classic and current portray law, lawyers, judges and legal proceedings. The class will watch diverse film excerpts, considering in detail how these popular culture portrayals reflect on the legal system, the courts, its participants, and particularly on the attorneys' professional role in society. This course is designed to challenge and stimulate your thinking. Participation is strongly encouraged.

Texts: (required of law students)

Law and Popular Culture, A Course Book, Michael Asimow and Shannon Mader, Peter Lang Publishing (2007). (Not needed for CLE credit)
Reel Justice, The Courtroom Goes to the Movies, Paul Bergman & Michael Asimow, Andrews, McMeel Publishing (2nd edition, 2006). (Recommended for CLE credit)
Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct, http://www.law.cornell.edu/ethics/mn/code/
(Download rules to your computer, or bring printed rules to class) (Required for all).

Preparation for the course:

In order to help class discussion, all course participants (students and lawyers) ***must*** watch at least four of the following movies before you attend the course. The course book, Reel Justice, will be helpful to you in giving you background information about the movies you watch. Reading of the text, prior to the course, is mandatory for law students. The course will feature clips from about 50 movies. Prior to class, you are required to have watched four movies from the list below. You must watch 2 made before 1990 and 2 made after 1990. The Hamline Law Library has available all the movies listed below in its Law and Cinema Movie Collection. http://lawlibrary.hamline.edu/content.php?pid=57062&sid=417952&search_terms=law+cinema. You may choose to rent the movies at video rental stores or internet rental sites.

12 Angry Men (1957)
Adams Rib (1949)
And Justice for All (1979)
Anatomy of a Murder (1959)
A Time to Kill (1996)
Erin Brockovich (2000)
Legally Blonde (2001)
Michael Clayton (2007)
My Cousin Vinny (1992)
Runaway Jury (2003)
Suspect (1987)
To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)
Verdict, The (1982)
Young Mr. Lincoln (1939)

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Law students must read Law and Popular Culture, chapters 1 - 4 (pages 3 - 63); chapter 6 (pages 83 - 97); chapters 8 - 9 (pages 111 - 147); chapters 11 - 14 (pages 165 - 237). Although each chapter lists assigned movies, you are only required to view four movies listed above.

Grades (law students):

Students are required to be in attendance for both days. Attendance will be taken at the start of each day; the start of each afternoon session; and the conclusion of each day. Lack of attendance will result in the lowering of a letter grade for each attendance missed.

Your grade is based on a paper which is due no later than 11:59 pm CDT, August 4, 2010 (first day of finals). Strong writing skills are important. Papers **must** be submitted electronically through Hamline in an anonymous grading system. Your paper should reflect your personal interest and be based on a particular work or works of films, **not television**. The paper **must** draw on the theoretical materials presented in the textbook readings, class discussion, as well as outside research such as case law, journal articles or law review articles. The paper **shall** be no less than 15 double-space pages nor more than 20 double-space pages, including **mandatory** footnotes, and bibliography. Students **must** use Times New Roman, 12 point type. "A" papers written by former students are available online on this course TWEN page. Final graded papers will be returned to the Office of the Registrar and will be disposed of if not picked up within 1 year.

Thirty sample topics are listed below, including topics used by Hamline students. **"A" papers listed in bold are available to read on TWEN under Course Materials.** You can select one of the 30 topics, or come up with your own topic.

- A Genre Study of American Legal Films: Observations on the Development of the Genre.
- American Jury System as Depicted in Cinema Law and the Cinema.
- Attorneys as Ambulance Chasers: Silver Screen Fiction or Fact?
- **Between Ethics and Ideology; How Film Has Defined Lawyers as Heroes from the "Golden Age" of Legal Films to the Present**.
- Civil Disobedience: Lawyers who Disrupt on Film, Have they Made the Practice of Law a Joke?
- Collateral Damage: The Impact of Legal Movies on How the Public Perceives the Judicial System.
- Courting Public Opinion: Have Movies Made a Positive Case that the Justice System is Fair?
- Defense Attorneys who Represent the Guilty: Are They Ogres or Heroes in Popular Culture.
- Do Films Accurately Reflect the Family Lives of Female Attorneys?
- Disorder in the Court: The Three Stooges Had it Wrong; Lawyers and the Courts are Better than ever.

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- Elle Woods… A New Legal Icon? A Look at Modern Representations of Female Lawyers in Cinema
- Final Judgment: Judging the Judges of the Silver Screen.
- From Legally Blonde to The Accused: Are Female Attorneys Depicted Fairly and Accurately in Film?
- From *Mutual Film Corporation* to *Joseph Burstyn, Inc.*, how the United States Supreme Court changed the way we watch movies.
- Grishman's Law: Are His Movies Guilty of Bad Lawyering?
- Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury: Do Reel Juries differ from Real Juries.
- Law School to the Courtroom: Do Films Understand Lawyers?
- Lawyers on the Dark Side of Law.
- Legally Blonde Influence: How the Cinema Portrays Female Attorneys and Inspires Women to Pursue Legal Careers.
- Lessons from Anatomy of a Murder.
- Popcorn, Pimps and Prosecutors: Does Ethics Matter in Film.
- Portrayals of Prosecutors in Film.
- **Sensationalizing Race and Vigilante "Justice": The Black and White Contrasts of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *A Time to Kill.***
- Search for Atticus Finch.
- Storytelling: Movies getting law wrong.
- The Law - According to Revenge Movies.
- Top Movie Lawyers. Why we like them, and do they really exist.
- Uncivil action. Lawyers crossing the line for box office success.
- Where have you gone Professor Kingsfield? Have movies convinced good students not to become lawyers?
- Women in Legal Films: The Search for a Successful Female Attorney.

Class Schedule: (topics, times and order of topics subject to modification)

Day One: Saturday, June 12, 2010.

8:00 - 8:30	***Introduction.*** *Instructor and student introductions. Explanation of course.*
8:30 - 9:10	***History of government censorship in film.***
9:10 - 9:40	***The Trial. Popularity of the Courtroom Genre.***
9:40 - 10:00	***Morning Break***
10:00 - 11:25	***Opening and Closing.***
11:25 – 12:15	***Lunch Break***
12:15 - 1:10	***Law School, Law Students.***

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1:10 - 1:45	***Humor for the Sake of Humor.***
1:45 - 2:05	***Afternoon Break***
2:05 - 3:30	***Ethics.*** *(Break out session #1. Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct)*
3:30 - 3:45	***Review of Day One.*** *Class Questions. Information for Day Two.*

Day Two: Sunday, June 13, 2010.

8:00 - 9:00	***Juries.***
9:00 - 10:00	***Witnesses and Courtroom Skills****.*
10:00 - 10:20	***Morning Break***
10:20 - 11:15	***Women in the Law.***
11:15 - 12:00	***Lunch Break***
12:00 - 12:35	***Judges.***
12:35 - 1:30	***Civil Rights and Wrongs****.*
1:30 - 1:50	***Afternoon Break.***
1:50 - 3:15	***Are Lawyers Still Our Heroes?*** *Lawyers who make us proud of our profession. (Break out session #2)*
3:15 - 3:30	***Review of Day Two.*** *Class Questions. Review of Final Paper. Evaluations will be done sometime during class on Sunday.*

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