EXCLUSIVE: Inside the Homes of Aerosmith's Tom Hamilton and Red Sox Slugger Manny Ramirez

The Best Lawyers

You Hate Them—Until You Need Them. Who to Call When It's Time To Get Tough.

AND: Law and Disorder—the Worst Lawyers

PLUS:
Why We Love the Fall. Essays by Annie Proulx, Christopher Buckley, Susanna Kaysen, and More

Five Great Autumn Weekends
Hidden Shame—New England's "Rent-a-Slave" Migrant Harvest
Don’t need a lawyer? You will—if not to defend you, then to help you buy a house, write a will, or start a business. Here are this town’s best—and worst. By Elaine McArdle
The affable Reddington ranks as one of the best criminal defense attorneys in the state: tough, honest, and able to charm juries while controlling difficult clients. He has so far handled more than 50 first-degree murder cases. But you don’t have to get charged with murder for Reddington to represent you. Except where domestic violence is concerned, he says, “I’ll take any criminal case.” Reddington convinced a jury in 1998 that former Red Sox first baseman Mo Vaughn failed a sobriety test because of a bad knee; he now represents Ronald Paquin, a former priest accused of raping an altar boy more than 50 times. [508-583-4280]

**Richard M. Egbert**

**BOSTON**

After making a name for himself defending mobsters, the indomitable Egbert has built the most exclusive criminal defense practice in New England. High-profile clients—including controversial Superior Court Judge Maria Lopez, fighting charges that his ex-girlfriend and her child. But the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) apparently didn’t buy attorney Ballo’s claim that he was capable of anything less than a superb defense. [617-737-8442]

**Stephanie Page**

**COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES, BOSTON**

Page, who grew up in Haverhill and was a scholarship student at Vassar, is now fighting to keep federal prosecutors from seeking the death penalty against Gary Sampson, the alleged carjacker charged with killing three people in a shooting binge in 2001. Along with Reddington and Carney, she was one of the first Massachusetts criminal defense lawyers invited to join the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers, limited to the top one percent of trial lawyers in each state. [617-482-6212]

**PERSONAL INJURY**

**Andrew C. Meyer Jr.**

**COLOR & MEYER, BOSTON**

Year in and year out, no one comes close in the big verdict tally to Meyer, a silver-haired lawyer. He’s well known for his work on behalf of the children of Boston’s public schools. Meyer has been defending indigent defendants since 1978 without the glamour or big money enjoyed by his private-sector colleagues. Ferociously committed to his clients, Meyer, she was one of the first Massachusetts criminal defense lawyers invited to join the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers, limited to the top one percent of trial lawyers in each state. [617-482-6212]
Don't use your one phone call on these guys…

DANIEL C. CRANE HAS WITNESSED every kind of horrible lawyer behavior imaginable. There are the high-flying lawyers gone bad, like First Amendment expert Morris Goldings, disbarred and sentenced in July to three years in prison for stealing $17 million from his clients. And former supernova F. Lee Bailey, disbarred for mishandling $6 million in stock for a client serving a life sentence.

Crane, bar counsel of the Board of Bar Overseers (BBO), has seen plenty of garden-variety lawyer-crooks, too. Last year, the BBO, an independent body appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court, processed 1,114 complaints against lawyers. Of these, 87 resulted in private admonitions (meaning that the offending lawyers' names were not made public), 19 in public reprimands, and 37 in suspensions. Three of the lawyers resigned their licenses, 4 were placed on "disability inactive" status, and 28 were disbarred. "With 45,000 lawyers, the human condition is such that you're going to get some who are dishonest or having emotional problems or are impaired by alcohol or drugs," Crane says.

Unlike a handful of other states, where attorney discipline is a public process from start to finish, Massachusetts investigates its lawyers entirely in secret unless the BBO finds evidence that there has been a violation of an ethics rule. Lawyers, of course, prefer it that way.

Crane wants to at least reform the system so that lawyers are required [Continued on page 181]

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THE ENTERTAINMENT AND MEDIA LAWYER
Eliane M. Rogers.

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BIGGEST VERDICTS
Settling Up

Compared to Texas, California, and New York, local juries are downright stingy. But there have been some large judgments here. Some of the biggest:

> **$528 million** The largest verdict in state history, though largely symbolic, since it was against two men who have no assets: Charles Jaynes and Salvatore Sicari, the imprisoned killers of 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley. A related lawsuit is pending against the North American Man/Boy Love Association, whose literature Curley's parents contend incited the men. Lawyer for the plaintiff: Lawrence Frisoli, Cambridge.

> **$28 million** A 1999 liquor liability verdict against Father's Huddle Café and Café Enterprises, Inc., which ran the Kenmore Square bar Father's Too, after underage patrons chased a man into traffic, where he was killed. On appeal, Lawyer for the plaintiff: Marianne LeBlanc, Boston.

> **$27.5 million** Against the MBTA in a case brought by the estate of a man who couldn't be rescued for more than an hour after he was caught under a moving Green Line train in Brookline. The judge reduced the verdict to $1 million; the case is expected to be retried. Lawyers for the plaintiff: Helen Holcomb and John Cunha Jr., Boston.

> **$21.4 million** In February, in a case against three doctors at Memorial Hospital in Worcester on behalf of a child who became mentally retarded, blind, and quadriplegic after they refused for five days to perform a cesarean section on an overdue mother. Details of the settlement were not disclosed. Lawyers for the plaintiff: Jay Lynch and Peter Heppner, South Easton and Boston, respectively.

> **$14.3 million** Last year's biggest verdict, to a man severely brain-damaged in Lowell after his bicycle collided with an unlocked gate that swung into his path. On appeal. Lawyers for the plaintiff: Frederic Halstrom, Boston; Catherine Geary, Lowell.


> **$7.6 million** Also against the T, for firing its highest-ranking black woman executive after she reported discrimination. Settled for $2 million. Lawyers for the plaintiff: Norman Zalkind and Inga Bernstein, Boston.

> **$7.2 million** In March, against several pharmacists on behalf of a Newton boy severely brain-damaged after receiving 125 times the proper dose of medicine. Posttrial motions pending. Lawyers for the plaintiff: Kenneth Margolin and Charles Capace, Boston.
Just 34, LeBlanc has already set another partner at the Sugarman firm, after underage drinkers beat and chased another kid from the rougher side of town, and $2.2 million against a car seat manufacturer. Another top-dollar lawyer, whose clients tend to be high-profile and wealthy, "His cases look like nothing else," says Jacobs, who is also an AAML fellow. Bassil, too, is an AAML fellow. Bassil, 48, an expert in cases involving allegations of sexual abuse or domestic violence, is one of the toughest lawyers in court and the most compassionate with clients—a "velvet fist in an iron glove," as another lawyer puts it. Legal groups have given her awards for zealous advocacy on behalf of indigent clients, and for professionalism and ethics in family law. A former public defender, she also handles criminal cases, such as the Paula Rosa murder case, in which her client, an alleged gang member, was acquitted of charges of accidentally shooting a grandmother. Bassil, too, is an AAML fellow. Bassil has served as an attorney for the writer. [617-338-5566]

**REAL ESTATE**

**Kevin Kerr**

There's more to real estate law than showing clients where to sign. Selling a house you've owned for 40 years—or buying your first home—is an emotional milestone. Top practitioners combine a personal touch with a sharp eye for potential legal pitfalls. Kerr's such a typical guy from Southie that clients have no idea he went to Harvard; the down-to-earth Kerr, 44, wouldn't dream of telling them. "The anti-lawyer," one client calls him. "No slickness to him," says another.
**EMPLOYMENT**

**Nancy S. Shilepsky**
Perkins, Smith & Cohen, Boston

Twenty years ago, employment law was a low-paying backwater whose pioneers were more interested in equal rights than money. With today's explosion in workplace discrimination and harassment lawsuits, this field is one of the hottest—especially during the current employment slump. Shilepsky has the distinction of having beaten Alan Dershowitz in *Bowman v. Heller*, when the SJC agreed that circulating pornographic photos of a coworker was not free speech entitled to First Amendment protection. The author of several books on employment law, Shilepsky, 50, also represented a former Harvard employee who got a settlement from the university after claiming antigay discrimination by a gay supervisor. Last year, she won a Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD) claim against Stonyhill College on behalf of a Chinese-American professor paid less than white professors. [617-554-4000]

**Dahlia C. Rudavsky and Ellen J. Messing**
Messing, Rudavsky & Welling, Boston

Along with Shilepsky, these two by League of women parliamentarians are trailblazers in the field of employment and discrimination law. In a landmark case, Rudavsky, 53, won a federal jury trial against the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which paid a female veterinarian much less than her male colleagues. She also represented Professor Julia Frewitt Brown in her successful tenure battle against BU, which Brown accused of gender bias. [617-742-0004]

**Gretchen Van Ness**
Boston

Van Ness, 44, is the patron saint of underdogs. She was part of the legal team that fought to allow gay and lesbian groups to march in Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade; landed a confidential settlement for fired Boston College feminists who refused to teach men and women together; and engineered another settlement for a 41-year-old college senior who claimed the Atlantic Monthly turned her down for an internship because of her age. [617-723-3506]

**Charles P. Wagner**
Charles P. Wagner Associates, Boston

Wagner, 32, has such a remarkable win record before the MCAD that seasoned lawyers call for his advice. He takes pride in being visible as a gay attorney, contributes significant time to legal issues involving gay rights, advises small businesses on how to comply with employment laws, and lectures frequently to bar groups. [617-725-0008]

**Katherine J. Michon**
Kimball, Brousseau & Michon, Boston

One of the best negotiators in the business, Michon, 38, is one of three women founders of Kimball, Brousseau & Michon, an employment-law boutique. Many clients are referred by defense lawyers who respect her work, which includes litigation, contract review, and mediation. Michon, who concentrates on sex-harassment cases, chaired a subcommittee that has drafted new sex-harassment guidelines for the MCAD. [617-567-9449]

**BANKRUPTCY**

**Richard S. Hackel**
Boston

"One of the most caring practitioners a client could meet," says one court source. An idealistic child of the '60s, Hackel, 61, says most people who file for bankruptcy are "damned embarrassed about it. I'm just appreciative I can help people and eke out a modest living." A pragmatist, yet willing to go the extra mile for all his clients. [617-742-1899]

**Lynne F. Riley**
Riley & Esher, Cambridge

A sophisticated practitioner who teaches bankruptcy seminars to other lawyers, Riley, 42, says she enjoys the satisfaction of helping people get a fresh start. Also adept at real estate issues, Riley was part of a task force that established a committee now attempting to return civility to the local legal profession. [617-876-5755]

**Gary W. Cruickshank**
Boston

Described as "a gentleman," Cruickshank, 53, is respected by judges, who say his word is his bond. He "can make deals no one else can," a court official says. Since time is of the essence for his clients, Cruickshank focuses on resolving cases quickly. [617-350-1960] (Continued on page 178)
Lawyers [Continued from page 91]

Anne J. White
KLIEMAN, LYONS, SCHINDLER & GROSS, BOSTON
In practice for more than 20 years, White, 49, switched from litigation to bankruptcy because, she says, "You feel like you're actually making a difference." In her free time, she plays standup bass with her family in a blues-country band. [617-445-1000]

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

William F. Lee
HALE AND DORR, BOSTON
In this hotbed of tech and biotech creativity, the law of patents, trademarks, and copyrights—intellectual property, or IP—is big business. After Hale and Dorr loaned litigator Lee to serve as a prosecutor in the Iran-Contra scandal in the '80s, he returned to try his hand in the nascent field of biotech patent law. He has since built a reputation as one of the world's top patent trial lawyers. He successfully defended a $600 million patent claim for videoconferencing equipment, and won at trial for Biogen over a patent for interferon, the protein used to treat multiple sclerosis. Lee, 52, who works 11-hour days, six days a week, is also managing partner of his 475-lawyer firm and teaches IP litigation at Harvard Law School. [617-526-6000]

Frank P. Porcelli
FISH & RICHARDSON, BOSTON
A partner at one of the nation's oldest and largest IP firms, Fish & Richardson, Porcelli, who has a master's degree in chemistry, has worked with big-name clients including St. Jude Medical, Eastman Chemical, and Genzyme. He won a $129 million judgment for 3M against Johnson & Johnson for patent infringement and theft of trade secrets, and a $19 million jury verdict for the manufacturer of a pacemaker. [617-542-9070]

Bruce D. Sunstein
BRONNARD & SUNSTEIN, BOSTON
His dad was an inventor, so patent lawyer Sunstein is simpatico with such clients as technology wunderkind Dean Kamen, whose latest creation is the Segway Human Transporter, that two-wheel motorized scooter. An MIT grad, the kindly Sunstein, 58, has helped clients with patents for speech-recognition systems, athletic shoes, data compression software, and devices to inspect cargo and luggage for explosives. [617-443-9292]

Zick Rubin
HILL & BARLOW, BOSTON
Rubin handles copyright and trademark work for authors, publishing and media companies, cultural institutions, and universities. A former psychology professor at Harvard and Brandeis, Rubin, 58, represents Alice Randall, author of the controversial The Wind Done Gone, and last year led a team that convinced the SJC that the state's proposed "Son of Sam" bill was unconstitutional. (His firm, Hill & Barlow, represents this magazine, though Rubin himself does not handle magazine business.) [617-428-3408]

Michael J. Bevilacqua
HALE AND DORR, BOSTON
An expert in licensing, trademark, and copyright, particularly for technology companies, Bevilacqua, 45, is "exactly the lawyer an entrepreneur needs," says one colleague. High-tech clients have included Spyglass, Wang Laboratories, and Analog Devices. [617-526-6000]

STARTUP COMPANIES

John H. Chory
HALE AND DORR, WALTHAM
Two friends tinkering in a garage come up with a great idea for a new product. Helping them launch it takes a creative and high-energy lawyer who can assist rapid-growth clients in attracting investors and—with luck—going public. This former military intelligence officer, a graduate of West Point and Harvard Law, has helped at least 100 clients bring their ideas to market. "I love the energy level of entrepre-

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neurs," says Chory, 44. Clients have included Open Market, one of the hottest IPOs of the mid-'90s; SilverStream Software; and American Hard Cider, which named its popular "Cider Jack" after Chory's son. He also helped launch Akamai Technologies. Last year, Chory opened an office for Hale and Dorr in Waltham to be closer to the tech world. [781-966-2000]  

John M. Hession  TESTA, HWITZ & THIBEAULT, BOSTON  
Early mornings Mondays through Thursdays, Hession meets with new entrepreneurs to go over their business plans, help them find jobs in the tech industry, and network. His advice is free—and so is the coffee. "I have fun with what I do. I love working with small companies seeking growth and needing help to get started," says Hession, 50, who taught e-commerce and intellectual property at Boston University's School of Law. Taken with the enthusiasm of a computer executive with a funky idea, Hession helped get financing for Cool Dog, a sponge cake bun filled with ice cream and a Fenway favorite. Other clients he's assisted with licensing and venture capital financing include Turbine Entertainment Software, maker of multiplayer Internet games; Presstek, which makes computer-to-plate imaging for the graphics industry; and MarketSoft, producer of marketing automation software. [617-248-7000]  

Mark G. Borden  HALE AND DORR, BOSTON  
Borden, 51, has represented hundreds of technology startups. Coauthor of Start-Up and Emerging Companies: Planning, Financing and Operating the Successful Business, he likes gambling on entrepreneurial ideas. "If you have a great idea and a good business plan, we'll say, 'Yeah, come in,'" he says. [617-526-6000]  

Richard S. "Chip" Morse Jr.  MORSE, BARNES-BROWN & PENDLETON, WALTHAM  
"An entrepreneurial person with a cool idea—that's the backbone of our practice," says Chip Morse, 50, who has 32 years' experience in this field. His 22-lawyer Waltham firm, Morse, Barnes-Brown & Pendleton, is unique in the state because it focuses on startup companies. It also charges lower fees than its Boston competitors, he says. "The law itself is relatively uncomplicated," he says. "It's the business advice that's more important." [781-622-5930]  

Elaine M. Rogers  HILL & BARLOW, BOSTON  
This month, the deceptively soft-spoken Rogers, 40, is opening Hill & Barlow's Manhattan office to be closer to the film world, part of her determined effort to turn Boston into a movie and TV mecca. Agent-lawyer Rogers represents screenwriters, directors, producers, and other creative talent, calling herself "an overall counselor to get projects produced." She helped negotiate the [Continued on page 180]
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Lawyers (Continued from page 179)

Mark A. Fischer
Palm & Dodge, Boston
A trailblazer in the field of new media, Fischer, 52, counsels Internet companies, universities, musicians, and record companies, concentrating on the electronic delivery of content through new technologies. His clients, he says, include "anyone with a cool idea for content." An expert in licensing and copyright, Fischer also serves as an agent for bands including Pity Sing. [617-578-0484]

Maggie A. Lange
Perkins, Smith & Cohen, Boston
A former keyboard player in rock bands, Lange, 50, is one of a handful of Boston lawyers whose focus is musicians. Her clients include '70s favorite Boston as well as newcomers including Russian teen singer Polina and the Irish band Rubyhore, whose single "Sparkle" has been climbing mainstream radio charts. Lange also teaches at Berklee College of Music. [617-854-4000]

Trusts and Estates

Denzil D. McKenzie
McKenzie & Associates, Boston
If your will is botched, you'll be dead before your family finds out. A good lawyer should know more about your family issues than your psychiatrist and help you plan accordingly. McKenzie, 54, founding partner of one of the city's most successful minority-owned law firms, handles estate planning, probate, and general advice to family-owned businesses. He enjoys working with "people and their money," he says. Many of his clients are people of humble origins who have amassed fortunes through careful money management. McKenzie chuckles at fads in estate planning, preferring proven means for preserving assets. His

Elaine McArdle is a journalist and lawyer who has covered legal issues, crime stories, court cases, and law-related matters for publications including Lawyers Weekly USA, where she was features editor.
longtime law partner, Wilbur R. Edwards Jr., just left the firm to become a Housing Court judge. [617-793-0400]

Jon E. Steffensen
STEFFENSEN, HERMAN & DOUGHERTY, BOSTON

Efficient and reasonably priced, Steffensen, 56, is particularly good at building trust with clients. His five-lawyer firm concentrates in trust and estate planning and administration, for a range of clients, from multimillionaires to average families. [617-525-7935]

Ellie Cope-Flanagan
WESTWOOD AND CONCORD

Smart, funny and wise, Cope-Flanagan, 47, worked for a trust company for years before going into private practice. Her clients come from all income levels. Careful and conscientious, she “doesn’t toss something off without reading it again and again,” says a colleague. [781-255-0622]

Leslie Kloville Plimpton
BOSTON

The talkative Plimpton, 58, who holds an advanced degree in tax law, is very accessible to clients, who range from middle class to wealthy and regard her as a mother figure. [617-227-4899]

Barely Legal (Continued from page 88)

to tell clients whether or not they have malpractice insurance. It’s estimated that at least one-third of lawyers—and a much higher percentage of sole practitioners—don’t, meaning that a client who wins a malpractice lawsuit may find it impossible to collect damages.

Crane offers this advice to people who are looking for a lawyer: Ask friends or colleagues to recommend someone, then check them out on the BBO Web site (www.mass.gov/obchbo) to make sure they haven’t had disciplinary trouble. Next, administer the “gut test.” Do you get a good feeling from the lawyer? Does she explain legal matters in a way you understand? Does he have malpractice coverage? Ask whether he has the time to devote to your case. If the answer to these questions is “no,” head out the door. And always get fee agreements in writing. Maybe then you won’t end up with a lawyer like these:

DONALD T. HACHEY, ATHOL. In 1995, Hachey lost his law license for a month for urinating on the file of a client with whom he had a fight. He is now retired.

WILLIAM L. HARVEY II, CHELMSFORD. Harvey’s law license was suspended for six months in April after he twice tried to run his car into another lawyer with whom he “had disagreements,” as the BBO delicately put it. Criminal charges against him were continued without a finding on the condition that Harvey keep undergoing counseling and have no avoidable contact with the other lawyer.

SHIRLEY A. HOAK, CAMBRIDGE. Hoak was disbarred and is serving two and a half years in jail after she admitted stealing $1.6 million from clients who expected her to invest it or to pay their debts. In March, she admitted using most of the money for such things as withdrawing cash at casinos and repaying other clients. As part of her sentence, Hoak was ordered to continue undergoing psychological treatment and not to gamble.

RICHARD A. GALANTE, LEXINGTON. A military retiree hired Galante to file his divorce. Galante gave the man a phony divorce decree with a forged signature of a court official. Believing he was divorced, the man remarried, had a child, and removed his first wife from his health insurance. The first wife contacted Galante to see why her benefits were canceled; not only did he fail to tell her he had represented her husband, but he also offered to represent her. Galante was disbarred in January.

TERENCE J. FITZGERALD, Fitchburg. Fitzgerald, who represented a boy in a criminal matter, invited the boy’s foster mother to meet with him about the case. According to the foster mother, Fitzgerald drove her to his home and took off his shirt and shorts, exposing a pair of bikini briefs. Although Fitzgerald denied he had attempted to undress, and claimed he wasn’t aware of any similar prior accusations, an investigation found that he had previously been accused of indecent exposure. The bar counsel recommended a six-month license suspension, but the BBO gave him the lighter sanction of a public reprimand. In any case, his office telephone number has been disconnected.

MICHAEL E. BRYANT, WORCESTER. Bryant was part of a scam that submitted phony injury claims to insurance companies. Although he was convicted of three counts of conspiracy to commit larceny, he started a new law firm with his wife and another lawyer. The Supreme Judicial Court, noting that Bryant most likely will be disbarred if his conviction is upheld, suspended his law license in April.

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