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# If Great Literary Works Had Been Written By Lawyers, Part Two

*Kevin Underhill*

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### THE LAW BOOK OF JOB

THERE WAS A MAN in the land of Oz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and he was one who went to law school, and turned away from leisure. And he was feasted by the Firms of the East, and they called for him to join them. And it was so, when his breakfast was completed, that Job went unto work, and then began to bill, returning not till darkness. Thus did Job continually.

Now it came to pass on a day when the associates came to present themselves before the Partners, that one who was Of Counsel came also among them. And the Partner said unto the Counsel, Whence comest thou? And the Counsel answered, saying, From going to and fro about the Firm, and considering those within it. And the Partner said unto the Counsel, Hast thou considered my associate Job? For there is none like him in the Firm, a

perfect and an upright man, one who billeteh plenty, and turneth away from leisure. Then the Counsel answered, saying, Doth Job bill for nought? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his position is increased in the Firm. But put forth thy hand, and assign him document review, and he will renounce thee to thy face. And the Partner said unto the Counsel, Go and do thy worst. And the Counsel went forth.

And it fell on a day when Job had planned to take almost half an hour for lunch that there came a messenger, and said, The associates were going to lunch, and the Partners fell upon them, and took them away: yea, they have assigned them research projects, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, The Chaldeans have delivered full ten thousand documents which we must redact,

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and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. And before Job could ask who the Chaldeans were, there came another, and said, Behold, there came a great and unexpected ruling, and thy litigation team has gone to respond, and thou shalt redact alone, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. Then Job arose, and shaved his head, and tore his robe (for it was casual day); and he fell upon the ground, and said, the Partners giveth, and the Partners taketh away. In all this Job sinned not, nor did he quit.

Again it came to pass that the Partner and the Counsel encountered one another outside their Lounge. And the Partner said, Whence comest thou? And the Counsel answered, saying, From going to and fro about the green, and putting back and forth across it. And the Partner said, I told thee that Job would not resign: yea, he is a drone, and he holdeth fast. And the Counsel answered, saying, indeed, most all the time a man has will he give for a paycheck. But put forth thy hand, and take his vacation, and he will renounce thee to thy face. And the Partner said unto the Counsel, Knock thyself out.

So the Counsel went forth, and smote Job with motions *in limine* and responses to multiple interrogatories: yea, smote him *even* with discovery. Then said Job's wife unto him, Dost thou still hold fast to thy dream of partnership? Renounce it, and leave thy Firm. But he said unto her, foolish woman, thou speakest as a layperson, and one with a mortgage to boot. In all this Job sinned not, nor did he quit.

Then came again the Counsel, and rescheduled a hearing, and took the vacation of Job.

And Job then opened his mouth, and cursed his day.

**A**ND JOB SAID:  
*Behold, I cry out, but I am not heard:  
I cry for help, but the office doors are shut.  
He hath broken me down on every side, and I am gone;  
And those tickets were nonrefundable.  
Wherefore do the wicked live,*

*Become old, yea, wax mighty in power,  
To wear bad ties and stride about the Firm?  
They spend their days in prosperity,  
And breaketh open vaults of gold,  
While the righteous man is brother to jackals,  
And cannot even park in the building.  
The blackness of night is upon me;  
Indeed, this sucketh, and is calamity.*

Then the Partner answered Job out of the speakerphone, and said,

*Who is this that darkeneth counsel  
By words without knowledge?  
Gird up now thy loins like a man;  
For thy semi-annual review hath come.  
Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the Firm?  
Declare, if thou hast understanding.  
Canst thou draw out Leviathan with a fishhook?  
Or get new business from a lunch?  
Knowest thou the skills of deposition,  
Or how to wring admissions from a stone?  
Knowest thou the ordinances of Heaven?  
Or of Washington? Who can number the clouds by  
wisdom,  
Or bill thirty hours in a day?  
Declare, if thou hast understanding.  
And make it snappy, for I have nearly missed my tee time.*

Then Job answered the Partner, saying,

*I have uttered that which I understood not,  
Things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.  
Now mine eye seeth thee;  
Thy voice is mighty, thy clients without number.  
Thy Jaguar is impressive, thou dost park within the  
building.*

*Hear, I beseech thee, I renounce vacation, and need it not;  
For I have only fourteen years till partnership.*

And the Partner was pleased, and smiled upon Job, and gave him eight percent more than he had before. And this did continue each season until Job secured partnership. And after this Job lived full forty years and prospered; yea, even did his name appear upon the spine of a Federal Reporter. Then Job took senior status, being old and full of days.

SO ORDERED.

JAMES JOYCE

PORTRAIT OF THE LAWYER AS A YOUNG MAN

Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a mercedes coming down along the road and this mercedes that was coming down along the road met a nice little boy named baby esquire.

Mr. Brown told him that story: Mr. Brown looked at him through the library door: he was a partner.

He was baby esquire. The mercedes came down the road where Ms. Jones lived: she did taxes.

O, the big file folders.

O, the research projects.

He sang that song. That was his song.

O, the high tax bracket.

When you sweat in court first it is warm then it gets cold. The judge hit with the gavel. That had a funny sound.

Mr. Brown and Fred talked and talked. They were partners, and older than his father and mother but Mr. Brown was older than Fred and had a corner office.

At the meeting he hid under the conference table. His face was hot and the partners laughed.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S HEARING BEFORE THE U.S. PATENT EXAMINER

Examiner. *What hast thy client wrought,  
That thou dost come before this office arm'd  
With sharpest wit of lawyers gathered in  
Thy briefs abundant?*

Lawyer. *'Tis not in Heaven, Earth, nor prior art,  
This boxlike element <sup>11</sup> that pivot'ly connects  
To molding box by means of pin <sup>13</sup> upon't.  
Behold! Yon lever <sup>3</sup>, with spring <sup>19</sup>,  
Doth give resilient opposition ere it move,  
And on this basis, pritheee, you'll approve.*

HERMAN MELVILLE

MOBY DICK, OR, THE "WHALE"

A Narrative About, But Not Necessarily Limited to, the Species Enumerated at 50 C.F.R. § 224.101(b)(xiv)

COMES NOW the protagonist (hereinafter "Ishmael").

