

Abstract

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Title: *One Elle: Images of the Law Student in American Popular Culture*

Abstract: From the very real Scott Turow (*One L*) to the absurdly fictional Elle Woods (*Legally Blonde*), law students have populated a number of American movies, books, and even a television series or two. Who are these iconic law students? Where do they come from? What are their motives for attending law school and their aspirations for life after law school? To what extent are they reasonably accurate portrayals of law students at the time they were made? To what extent are they reasonably accurate portrayals of law students today? Do they inspire others to pursue a legal education or do they repulse others who might otherwise have pursued a legal education? Do they inspire hope or instill despair about the future of the legal profession? With the aid of textual excerpts and film clips, I propose to explore how American popular culture depicts law students (and, to a lesser extent, law schools), whether that depiction has changed over time, and, if so, the nature of the change.