

**Boston Legal Themes and Allusions in Comparison with StarTrek
For Parallel Universe: Trek in the Courtroom for Boston-Legal.org
Episode: Deep End of the Poole [02x24: airdate: May 2, 2006] by Debb from Montreal**

Theme 1: (Here Comes the Grudge or Defending the Left Hand Man): If we consider Denny Crane to be the C'nC of the enterprise known as Crane, Poole, and Schmidt and Alan Shore as his protégé; we can compare this instance whereby a Captain defends his right hand man... or in Alan's case, perhaps its more accurate to say left hand man given his political leanings.



The formal hearing takes place with Cmdr Riker representing Cmdr Maddox and Cpt Picard representing Cmdr Data under the JAG Captain Lovais
<http://tng.trekcoremedia.com/gallery/displayimage.php?album=34&pos=156>



Cmdr Riker (Jonathan Frakes) removes Data's **left** arm to demonstrate that he is indeed machinery.
<http://tng.trekcoremedia.com/gallery/albums/tng2/2x09/themeasureofaman180.jpg>



Amanda McBroom as Captain Phillipa Louvois (Amanda McBroom) examining data's left hand.
<http://tng.trekcoremedia.com/gallery/albums/tng2/2x09/themeasureofaman184.jpg>

In "The Measure of a Man", (TNG) Captain Picard defends his second in command, Lt. Cmdr. Data, against Cmdr. Maddox who wants him transferred under his command in order to study his "positronic brain". Cmdr Maddox originally opposed Data's acceptance into StarFleet (can you say "**grudge**"). The premise of the trial is that Data is considered "property" and therefore exempt from basic human rights. In order to avoid being disassembled for the purposes of scientific experimentation, Data's status is placed on trial to determine whether he is property or a sentient being with rights including freedom of choice. Similarly, we learn that Alan Arkin's interest in pursuing Alan Shore is more about satisfying a **grudge** than about justice. Ultimately, Alan is defending his character. "**My client expects me to tell him the truth. I did. That is my character.**"

Data to Riker: "That action injured you, but saved me; I will not forget it." Similar to Denny and Alan's exchange on the balcony. (need quote)

Theme 2 – Good things come in threes: The Logical, the Illogical, the Leader...

In Star Trek, we often find the crew grouped into threesomes. In Star Trek, the triumvirate of which Captain Kirk, the leader, is the balance between Spock and McCoy representing logic and emotion (passion). Lt. Uhura, the peacemaker, the communications officer who pours oil on troubled water. Similarly, Shirley is often the feminine force called upon to diffuse tensions in the office created by her male counterparts. Like Uhura, she represents the power behind the throne, or the old adage "behind every good man is a woman". Shirley is the voice of reason.



<http://img51.imageshack.us/img51/1282/bscap7458tk.jpg>



<http://boston-legal.org/press/bl-sueme-billboard.jpg>



Theme 3 – “I Have and Always Shall Be Your Friend”: Spock professes his undying friendship during the last minutes of his life. Their bond reminds me very much of Denny and Alan’s friendship.



Theme 4 - Star Trek Alumni: William Shatner (Denny Crane), René Auberjonois (Paul Lewiston), Lorna Raver (Judge Katherine Taylor), Writer/Actor Michael Reisz

Here Comes “The Judge”: *Lorna Raver:*

Interestingly, this is not the first time Lorna Raver portrays a judge. In the 2001 Voyager episode “Q2” she appears as Judge Q, a high-ranking official in the Q Continuum. She also portrayed a judge in the 1996 movie “Freeway” under Lorna Raver Johnson. She previously portrayed Judge Katherine Taylor in Season One’s “An Eye for an Eye”. She was Judge Sullivan in Desperate Housewives (2004) “Come Back to Me” as well as Judge Salke in Dragnet (2003) “Coyote”.



geocities.com/sfarmer_62/bl224_28_edited.jpg



VOY: “Q2” Judge Q (Lorna Raver), *centre*, portrays a high-ranking official in the Q Continuum.

<http://memory-alpha.org/en/Images/c/ct/Qjudicial.jpg>

The versatile **Michael Reisz** has been involved in the Star Trek Universe on many fronts. Notably as the hypochondriac Crewman William Telfer in the Voyager Episode "The Good Shepherd" but also providing the voice talent for the popular video games Star Trek: Bridge Commander (2002) as Cmdr. Matthew Graff, Capt. Nandi Jadeja, and Gul Havar and as various voices for Star Trek: Armada II (2001).



He has also written for several Boston Legal episodes which might explain many of the Star Trek references that keep popping up week after week...

The Cancer Man Can
Deep End of the Poole
Word Salad Days
Breast in Show
The Cancer Man Can
Witches of Mass Destruction



VOY: "The Good Shepherd" Michael Reisz is Crewman William Telfer, a hypochondriac who avoided away missions.

<http://memory-alpha.org/en/images/8/89/WilliamTelfer.jpg>