

**Boston Legal Themes and Allusions in Comparison with StarTrek
For Parallel Universe: Trek in the Courtroom for Boston-Legal.org
Season Three, Episode 3: Desperately Seeking Shirley. Airdate: Oct 3, 2006
by Debb from Montreal**

Theme 1: TREK ALUMNI

Since I am not the only one who noticed the parade of former Star Trek actors appearing on Boston Legal, I thought I would focus on alumni this week.

In addition to cast regulars William Shatner (Denny Crane), and René Auberjonois (Paul Lewiston), the guest roster includes Armin Shimmerman (Judge Brian Hooper), Ron Canada (Judge Willard Reese), Ethan Phillips (Scott Little's father), and Mark L. Taylor (Attorney Adam Jovanka).

Star Trek characters performed by Ethan Phillips



Ethan Phillips portrayed Neelix, a Taloxian, as regular cast member of Star Trek Voyager. He also guest starred in TNG as the Ferengi, Dr. Farek, in "Menage à trois", as a Maitre'D at a nightclub in the Dixon Hill holonovel "The Big Goodbye" in ST First Contact (cameo), and in Enterprise as Ullis, a Ferengi pirate in the episode "Acquisitions".

Screenscaps from: <http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/8/8c/Neelix.jpg>
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/3/36/DrFarek.jpg>,
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/5/54/Maitre%5C%27D.jpg> ,
<http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/c/c3/Ullis.jpg>

Star Trek characters performed by Mark L. Taylor



Haritath, a human colonist on the planet of Tau Cygna V in the year 2366. (TNG: "The Ensigns of Command," screencap from <http://www.trekpulse.com>) and Jarleth, a prisoner held captive aboard the Nyrian biosphere vessel. (VOY: "Displaced"), screencap from <http://images.wikia.com/memoryalpha/en/images/1/17/Jarleth.jpg>

Ron Canada had been featured in this report extensively for the episode Smile, (Season 2, Episode 15) and can be found here: <http://www.boston-legal.org/startrek/15-smile-startrek.pdf>

Theme 2: Whodunit? Star Trek has seen its number of episodes revolve around a murder mystery. Captain Picard was fond of running holonovels based on the Dixon Hill story "The Big Goodbye" (See Ethan Phillips guest roles above). But even more specifically, there have been a handful of episodes dealing with the murder mystery of a spouse. But since we are in the middle of this story arc, I will wait until it is resolved before expounding.