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THE CULTURAL LIVES OF CAUSE LAWYERS

This book seeks to illuminate what we call the cultural lives of cause lawyers by examining their representation in various popular media (including film, fiction, mass-marketed nonfiction, television, and journalism), the work they do as creators of cultural products, and the way those representations and products are received and consumed by various audiences. By attending to media representations and the culture work done by cause lawyers, we can see what material is available for citizens and others to use in fashioning understandings of those lawyers. This book also provides a vehicle for determining whether, how, and to what extent cause lawyering is embedded in the discourses and symbolic practices around which ordinary citizens organize their understanding of social, political, and legal life.

This book brings together research on the legal profession and work that takes up the analysis of popular culture. Contributors include scholars of popular culture who turn their attention to cause lawyers and experts on cause lawyering who in turn focus their attention on popular culture. This is a joining of perspectives that is both long overdue and fruitful for both kinds of scholarship.

Austin Sarat is William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Jurisprudence Political Science at Amherst College and Five College Fortieth Anniversary Professor. He received his PhD from University of Wisconsin and JD from Yale Law School. He is former president of the Law and Society Association and of the Association for the Study of the Law, Culture and the Humanities and of the Consortium of Undergraduate Law and Justice Programs. He is author or editor of more than sixty books, including *Mercy on Trial: What It Means to Stop an Execution*; *When the State Kills: Capital Punishment and the American Condition*; *Something to Believe in: Politics, Professionalism, and Cause Lawyers* (with Stuart Scheingold); and *The Blackwell Companion to Law and Society*.

Sarat is editor of the journal *Law, Culture and the Humanities* and of *Studies in Law, Politics and Society*. His public writing has appeared in such places as the *Los Angeles Times* and the *American Prospect*, and he has been a guest on National Public Radio, *The News Hour*, *Odyssey*, *The Abrams Report* on MSNBC, *World News Tonight* on ABC, and *The O'Reilly Factor*. His teaching has been featured in the *New York Times* and on *The Today Show*.

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Stuart Scheingold, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Washington, has written widely on rights, the politics of crime and punishment, cause lawyering, and, early in his career, on law and politics in the European Union. He is co-director (with Austin Sarat) of the International Cause Lawyering Project. Among his books are the *Politics of Rights*, *The Politics of Law and Order*, *The Politics of Street Crime*, and *Europe's Would-Be Polity* (with Leon Lindberg).

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Amherst College

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University of Washington



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*To my son Ben,
in celebration of his many gifts and the joy he brings to my life (A.S.)*

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