

# Balzo Communications



750 E. Briar Ridge Dr. ♦ Brookfield, WI 53045 ♦ USA  
Phone (262) 784-2591 ♦ Fax (262) 784-3468 ♦ Email balzocom@aol.com

For further information contact:  
Sandy Balzo, Balzo Communications  
262-784-2591, BalzoCom@aol.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Fiction Based On Fact: The Priest-Rape Crisis In Massachusetts and A STAIN UPON THE ROBE By Terry Devane**

Recent revelations about the Catholic Church in Boston are literally staggering:

- *Bernard Cardinal Law, in charge of the Archdiocese and compelled to testify before a grand jury, resigned his post.*
- *The Attorney General of the Commonwealth, after a criminal investigation lasting sixteen months, determined that at least 789 children in the Archdiocese had been sexually abused by 250 priests and other church workers since 1940.*
- *The new archbishop in Boston has just authorized a \$55 million settlement offer toward compensating over five hundred of those victims. And, to make matters worse, Church records show Cardinal Law had received detailed internal reports of such abuse but nevertheless engaged in a “cover-up” of those incidents.*
- *Most recently, defrocked priest and convicted pedophile John J. Geoghan was murdered in prison.*

It is in this context that Terry Devane’s explosive new legal thriller, *A STAIN UPON THE ROBE*, will appear in late September from G.P. Putnam’s Sons.

“Terry Devane” is the pseudonym that award-winning mystery author Jeremiah Healy {[www.jeremiahhealy.com](http://www.jeremiahhealy.com)} uses for his legal thrillers. A former Military Police lieutenant, trial attorney, and law professor, Healy was stunned by the whirlwind wracking the Church in Boston.

In his own words, “I grew up Catholic, and I have to say, not only was I never approached inappropriately by a priest, I know of no one who said they had been. But when this scandal began to break, I felt someone had to explore it fictionally even as it was unfolding in the real world, to try to understand how such a decades-long combination of betrayal and tragedy could have happened--and been kept a secret--in the city I’ve come to love.”

*A STAIN UPON THE ROBE*, the third novel in the acclaimed Mairead O’Clare series, opens with a female Superior Court judge coming to the Law Offices of Sheldon A. Gold on a Monday afternoon desperate for advice. The judge was assigned to preside over the worst of Boston’s priest-rape trials two months earlier, but not being Roman Catholic herself, she was given a

young, male research clerk to assist her on any religious technicalities. However, the chemistry between the judge and the clerk soon evolved into a torrid love affair.

Her problem? The morning of the day the judge sees Shel and Mairead, the clerk doesn't show up for work at the courthouse, and the judge is terrified that she will be drawn into a gender-reversal of the Gary Condit/Chandra Levy scandal involving the California congressional representative and his intern.

As the judge puts it: "Here I am, presiding over a trial that is 'a stain upon the robe' of the entire Catholic Church, and I may be branded as putting such 'a stain upon the robe' of the entire Massachusetts judiciary."

A STAIN UPON THE ROBE will be in bookstores September 28.

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**To arrange an interview with Jeremiah Healy/Terry Devane or for additional information, contact Sandy Balzo at Balzo Communications, [BalzoCom@aol.com](mailto:BalzoCom@aol.com) or 262-784-2591.**

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Both of Mairead's earlier legal adventures, UNCOMMON JUSTICE and JUROR NUMBER ELEVEN, are available in paperback reprint from Berkley, as detailed below. For more information about Jeremiah Healy/"Terry Devane," log on to [www.jeremiahhealy.com](http://www.jeremiahhealy.com)

### **A STAIN UPON THE ROBE**

By Terry Devane

ISBN: 0-399-15108-7 \$24.95 Hardcover

Putnam

Publication date: September 28, 2003

*With a trial torn from the headlines as a backdrop, the story skillfully combines the intrigue of newsworthiness with a riveting plot and the dynamics of a relationship between two engaging personalities.*

### **JUROR NUMBER ELEVEN**

By Terry Devane

ISBN: 0-425-19066-8 \$6.99 U.S. Paperback

Berkley 2003

*When a juror in a murder trial is killed after a not-guilty verdict, the prosecution and police suspect attorney Mairead O'Clare of bribery and homicide.*

### **UNCOMMON JUSTICE**

By Terry Devane

ISBN: 0-425-18424-2 \$6.99 U.S. Paperback

Berkley 2002

*Disillusioned with large firm practice in Boston, Mairead O'Clare throws in with Sheldon Gold, an older criminal defense attorney, to represent a self-anointed "Irish hermit" accused of murder.*

**Reviews and endorsements for the Mairead O'Clare legal thrillers set in Boston:**

*Terry Devane has written a wonderful legal thriller in UNCOMMON JUSTICE. If Stephanie Plum were a trial attorney, she'd be just like Mairead O'Clare: tough, resilient, and real.*

**--Janet Evanovich, author of TO THE NINES and HARD EIGHT**

*UNCOMMON JUSTICE is uncommonly good....The courtroom scenes are compelling. And the case isn't simple.*

**--The Associated Press**

*It's rare that a legal thriller captivates its readers on so many levels as does this powerful novel from...Terry Devane. A page-turning suspense tale, a sly and brilliant look at the legal world in Beantown, and a heartfelt story about a compelling, complex heroine.*

**--Jeffery Deaver, author of THE EMPTY CHAIR**

*A bang-up courtroom revelation.*

**--Houston Chronicle**

*For authoritative courtroom wrangling, sinister plots, and an inspired cast of unpredictable characters, do not miss Terry Devane's UNCOMMON JUSTICE.*

**--Perri O'Shaughnessy, author of MOVE TO STRIKE**

*Mairead O'Clare is as sharp and intelligent as any lawyer you could hope to find. This novel puts Terry Devane right up there with Scottoline, Margolin, and yes, Grisham.*

**--Michael Palmer, author of THE PATIENT**

*Unpredictable and entertaining.*

**--Publishers Weekly**

*Terry Devane thrills the reader with twists and turns galore and a wonderfully appealing heroine.*

**--Tess Gerritsen, author of GRAVITY and HARVEST**

*Savvy, suspenseful, and well-paced, UNCOMMON JUSTICE is an impressive series debut."*

**--William Bernhardt, author of MURDER ONE**

*A fast-paced legal thriller with a heroine you can root for, a good mystery, and a satisfying courtroom finale.*

**--Phillip Margolin, author of WILD JUSTICE**

*A book for every beach blanket...gripping.*

**--Boston Herald**

**J**eremiah Healy has written seventeen novels and more than sixty short stories, fifteen of which works have won or been nominated for the Shamus Award. A graduate of Rutgers College and Harvard Law School, Healy was a professor at the New England School of Law for eighteen years. He is the creator of the John Francis Cuddy private-investigator series and (under the pseudonym "Terry Devane") the Mairead O'Clare legal-thriller series, both set primarily in Boston.



Healy's later John Francis Cuddy novels include RESCUE, INVASION OF PRIVACY, THE ONLY GOOD LAWYER, and SPIRAL. Healy's Mairead O'Clare books from Penguin/Putnam (under the pseudonym "Terry Devane") are UNCOMMON JUSTICE, JUROR NUMBER ELEVEN, and, later this month, A STAIN UPON THE ROBE. The second collection of Healy's Cuddy short stories, CUDDY PLUS ONE, was published by Crippen & Landru this summer. His first collection of non-Cuddy stories, OFF-SEASON AND OTHER STORIES, also came out this summer, from Five Star.

A past Awards Chair for the Shamus, Healy also served as President of Private Eye Writers of America for two years. In October, 2000, he became the first American to be elected President of International Association of Crime Writers ("IACW"). Books of his have been translated into French, Japanese, Italian, Spanish, and German.

Healy has spoken about mysteries at the Smithsonian Institution's Literature Series, The Boston Globe Book Festival, the Sorbonne in Paris, and at conferences in England, Canada, Spain, Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic. He was toastmaster at the 1996 World Mystery Convention (Bouchercon) and will be the American Guest of Honour at Bouchercon 2004 in Toronto.

**Media Note:**

Full bio and downloadable (300dpi) photos of Jeremiah Healy are available at: [www.jeremiahhealy.com/media.html](http://www.jeremiahhealy.com/media.html)

*Jeremiah Healy is an accomplished speaker and interview subject with a wide-ranging knowledge of publishing, writing, and the crime and mystery genre, both in the U.S. and abroad. To arrange an interview or for additional information, contact Sandy Balzo at Balzo Communications, [BalzoCom@aol.com](mailto:BalzoCom@aol.com) or 262-784-2591.*

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