

Balzo Communications



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A STAIN UPON THE ROBE: *Flatiron Films options gripping legal thriller involving sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church*

A STAIN UPON THE ROBE, the new Terry Devane legal thriller set within the context of Boston's ongoing priest-rape scandal, has just been optioned for Hollywood by Flatiron Films (producer of PAY IT FORWARD, starring Helen Hunt and Kevin Spacey). Should a movie result, the purchase price (as a percentage of the film's budget) could reach \$500,000. The negotiating agents were Deborah Schneider of Gelfman Schneider Literary Agents, Inc. (New York) and Steve Fisher of APA (Los Angeles).

The novel, by Terry Devane (aka Jeremiah Healy) has resonated with readers and critics alike since its release in September, just as the Boston Archdiocese was making the largest publicly disclosed settlement offer by any U.S. diocese in history: \$85 million--to 552 victim/plaintiffs.

"...brings us uncomfortably close to the sordid world of pedophilia...But Devane, without taking his eye off the case of the missing clerk, uses the familiar backdrop as a setting for a touching treatise on the nature of love and affection."

Boston Globe

"...[demonstrates] hands-on intimacy with Boston's criminal justice system and [creates] soulful, savvy, appealing protagonists who manage to excel at their jobs, despite the heartbreak in their private lives."

Publishers Weekly

"Fast moving and grim look at a problem that is currently pervasive throughout the Catholic Church. It is also an examination of people, not just priests, who will stop at nothing to use the Church for their own ends. Devane's timing on these issues is perfect and mirrors recent events all too closely for comfort."

Mystery News

"Gripping"

Booklist

"Even when he writes under the name Terry Devane, Jeremiah Healy's riveting plotting glows. A STAIN UPON THE ROBE may tell of the chillingly familiar story of a pedophile priest and scores of young victims, but this one is an eloquent plot with a machine-gun conclusion. A sophisticated mystery with blood red characters."

Mystery Lovers, Pittsburgh

"...great thriller with provocative characters and witty drama."

WQRC/WOCN Boston

Terry Devane is the pseudonym that award-winning mystery author Jeremiah Healy <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."

Media Note:

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

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

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

A STAIN UPON THE ROBE

By Terry Devane

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

Putnam Click here: [Penguin Group \(USA\) Books](#)

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.