Justice Framed: Law in Comics and Graphic Novels

Law Text Culture Volume 16

“I love you, but why must you love the law? ‘Tis plain for all to see that she's a whore...that virtuous persons have no need to woo; that villains screw, then studiously ignore.”

-Alan Moore, V for Vendetta

Comics and graphic novels are gripped by issues of law, legality, order, and justice. However legal scholarship, even in the emerging field of law and popular culture, has yet to return the obsession, studiously ignoring the insight and opportunity comics provide for illuminating, developing, and critiquing law. The goal of Volume 16 of Law Text Culture will be to rectify this villainous oversight. “Justice Framed” will be a sustained reflection upon the nexus of law and comics, querying law’s manifestations in, around, and through the comic frame. As such, we strongly encourage both academic and creative submissions including but not limited to the following topics and approaches, either generally or in specific works:

- The 1950s comic book scare and its legal and political consequences
- Creators’ rights and the comic industry
- Legal ideologies and/or representations of legal institutions
- Political and ethical discourses in the intersection between text and image
- Superheroes and vigilantes
- Class structures and social inequalities
- War and international conflicts
- Ecology and environment
- Sexuality and gender
- Geo-politics and cultural imperialism
- Governmental structures
- Community, ethnicity and race
- Immigration
- Imprisonment and/or containment
- Resistance and/or revolution

Please send a brief abstract (maximum 300 words) and brief biographical note (maximum 100 words) to comicsandlaw@gmail.com by February 1, 2012. Essays accepted for inclusion in the volume will be due May 31, 2012 and should be between 6000 and 8000 words. Authors are also encouraged, should they be so inspired, to submit their work in the form of graphic essays of equivalent length.