

LEARNING ABOUT LAW

WITH
THE SIMPSONS

completely
unauthorized

The Simpsons is arguably the most popular television program ever. For twenty years, its portrayal of contemporary society has been enjoyed by 80 million viewers worldwide. Entire books have been written that examine its views on philosophy, sociology, politics, and religion. However, *The Simpsons'* approach to the law is still largely unexplored. This issue of *The PLEA* explores law-related areas of *The Simpsons*, and outlines how the law can be better understood through the weekly ordeals of the world's most famous animated family.

UNDERSTANDING LAW, SATIRE, AND THE SIMPSONS

The law plays a surprisingly dominant role on *The Simpsons*. Sometimes, circumstances can be as simple as Marge Simpson being told to hold a ticker-tape parade to hide a litter law violation. Other times, the show wades into more complex legal and social issues, such as the legalization of same-sex marriage in Springfield, the town where *The Simpsons* is set. At the core, however, the Simpson family seems to exist in a democratic, law-abiding society.

Steven Keslowitz, Executive Editor of the Cardozo Law Review, claimed that public perceptions of law-related concepts are shaped by their portrayal on programs like *The Simpsons*. However, it is important to remember that *The Simpsons* is a satire of contemporary society. Therefore, to understand how *The Simpsons* approaches issues and shapes perceptions requires an understanding of satire.

Satire, at its core, is meant to expose folly. Because *The Simpsons* is animated, it can make use of extreme exaggerations to expose this folly.

For example, when Homer Simpson eats 100 slices of processed American cheese, the viewer can temporarily suspend belief and accept that Homer has actually eaten all of this cheese - no matter how unlikely it would be in the real world. Satirically, the absurdity of Homer eating 100 slices of cheese can be read as a statement about the gluttony of contemporary society.

Often, *The Simpsons'* satirical approach to law is similar. For example, Police Chief Wiggum is sometimes portrayed as naive or lazy, and lawyer Lionel Hutz is sometimes portrayed as dishonest or incompetent. Neither of these portrayals represents reality. Instead, they are meant to be satirical exaggerations, much like Homer eating 100 slices of cheese.

Therefore, when watching *The Simpsons*, remember that while the program's satire may be holding a mirror to society, much like a house of mirrors at a carnival, the reflection is a distorted version of reality. Details are exaggerated in order to bring about humour, expose folly, and make people think critically about the world in which they live.

My opinions are as valid as
the next man's!

CREATING LAWS

In a democracy, citizens are entitled to have their voice heard when laws and other government decisions are being made. *The Simpsons* represents this well. Springfield's citizens appear to have a high degree of civic responsibility. Town hall meetings are attended by all main characters and many speak their mind on issues. These characters often become the satirical representation of their class, role, or other identity in society. For example:

- Mayor Quimby represents the elected official
- Kent Brockman, Channel 6 news anchor, represents the news media
- Mr. Burns, Springfield Nuclear Power Plant owner, represents the business class
- Homer and Marge Simpson represent the average middle-class citizen



TAXES AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURES: SPRINGFIELD'S BEAR PATROL

Dr. John Considine, professor at the College of Business and Law at University College Cork, thought that *The Simpsons* shows how voters are unable to see the relationship between public expenditures and taxes. He pointed to the season seven episode "Much Apu About Nothing" as evidence.

In "Much Apu About Nothing," a docile bear roamed into Springfield and destroyed the Simpsons' mailbox. Incensed, Homer led an angry mob to town hall to complain about bears. Faced with an angry mob, Mayor Quimby agreed to unnecessarily extensive bear patrols. Ground troops and stealth bombers were used to keep Springfield bear-free and the high cost resulted in a tax increase.

Unable to comprehend the bear patrol's burden on the public purse, Homer once again led an angry mob to town hall, this time to protest high taxes. Unwilling or unable to explain the concept of taxes to the townspeople, Quimby appeased the mob by blaming high taxes on the burden of illegal immigrants living in Springfield.



1. By blaming illegal immigrants for high taxes, Mayor Quimby deliberately misled voters.
 - a) Should Mayor Quimby have explained the concept of taxes and public expenditures to the citizens of Springfield?
 - b) Do you think that the general public is more interested in understanding issues facing their community, or would just like quick fixes to problems?
2. Dr. Considine felt the message in "Much Apu About Nothing" was that citizens want the highest quality of public services, but are unwilling to pay for them. Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. Mayor Quimby chose to raise taxes instead of borrowing money. Money borrowed to pay for current government services is called a deficit. When governments run deficits, they are providing services for the present taxpayer that will have to be paid for by future taxpayers.
 - a) Who benefits the most from deficits? The least?
 - b) Can you think of circumstances where government deficits are necessary?
 - c) Overall, do you think deficits are a good idea? Why or why not?

Teachers: For more information on local government, check out *Municipalities Matter: Local Government and Civic Elections*. Find it at plea.org.

IN A DEMOCRACY

By intermingling multiple viewpoints into Springfield's town meetings, *The Simpsons* is able to present perspectives of many groups who shape society.

Because of this high degree of involvement in local government on *The Simpsons*, Dr. Pete Woodcock, senior lecturer in politics at the University of Huddersfield, noted that democracy works in Springfield: Local control is exercised through frequently-held

public meetings and there is usually a common belief that all citizens are moral equivalents.

Unfortunately, participation alone does not always lead to successful public policy and laws. Springfield's voters and politicians alike tend to be ill-informed, and act in a self-interested manner.



INFORMED PUBLIC DEBATE: SPRINGFIELD AND THE MONORAIL

Andrew Wood and Anne Marie Todd, both Assistant Professors of Communication Studies at San Jose State University, found that *The Simpsons* “mocks the potential of the masses to demonstrate common sense.” They pointed to the season four episode “Marge vs. The Monorail” as evidence.

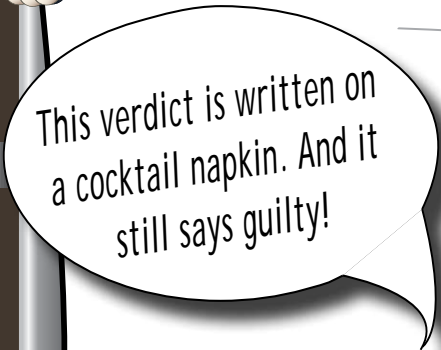
In “Marge vs. The Monorail,” Springfield held a special town meeting to determine how to spend a three million dollar windfall. Many divergent ideas were put forth but when Marge suggested investing the money in rebuilding Springfield's Main Street, the townsfolk seemed to agree. Before the citizens could vote on Marge's proposition, a fast-talking huckster suddenly appeared, and he sold Springfield on a mass transit monorail, claiming it will put Springfield on the map.

The Monorail proved to be a complete failure and the huckster ran off with Springfield's money. Even if the monorail had been properly constructed, Springfield is a small community with a centralized population, which means a mass transit system was not necessary.



1. Many residents of Springfield come to town hall to decide how the three million dollars should be spent. Do you think this kind of involvement in local politics happens in your community? Should it?
2. What does this episode say about how informed the average voter is on civic issues? Do you think the town hall meeting would have been different if the voters were more in tune with the needs of their community?
3. Consider major projects that have taken place in your community.
 - a) Did you or anybody you know contribute to the local political debate surrounding the issue?
 - b) Is there a risk that this project could or has already become a large waste of money, such as Springfield's monorail?





This verdict is written on a cocktail napkin. And it still says guilty!

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: MARGE IN CHAINS

Criminal law sets a standard of behaviour for all people who live in our country. Its main purpose is to protect society and to keep communities peaceful and safe. When a person's behaviour does not meet the standards set out in the *Criminal Code* and other laws, they could face criminal charges. In the season four episode "Marge in Chains," Marge Simpson found herself in such circumstances by stealing a bottle of bourbon.

The situation surrounding Marge's theft was complex. A flu epidemic left Marge to take care of her entire sick family. Exhausted, Marge appeared to accidentally forget to pay for a bottle of bourbon at the Kwik-E-Mart. Marge was caught, then charged with and found guilty of theft. She was sentenced to 30 days in the Springfield Women's Prison.

SENTENCES FOR THEFT IN CANADA

Canada's *Criminal Code* divides theft into two types:


- Theft of something worth more than \$5,000 is an indictable offence. Indictable offences are considered more serious crimes. Sentences for indictable offences range from short periods to life imprisonment.
- Theft of something worth less than \$5,000 may be dealt with as either an indictable or summary offence. Summary offences are generally considered more simple matters, and have a maximum six month jail term and a maximum fine of \$5,000. Juries are not used in summary offence trials.

In most cases if a judge or jury finds a person guilty, the defence lawyer and the Crown Prosecutor each recommend a sentence to the judge, then the judge chooses from the range of sentences set by law. There are principles followed for determining a sentence. The sentence should:

- denounce the criminal conduct
- deter the offender and others
- separate offenders from society when necessary
- assist in rehabilitating the offender
- provide reparation to the victim and the community
- give a sense of responsibility to the offender

The sentence should be proportionate to the degree of responsibility of the offender, and be based on sentences for similar crimes and circumstances from across the country.

As well, the person's situation affects the judge's decision. The judge considers such things as the person's age, whether they are employed, and whether they suffer from a mental or physical illness. In some communities the judge conducts a sentencing circle. This involves community members such as Elders, friends, or neighbours gathering informally to discuss what sentence is appropriate. Sentencing circles may help make the person accountable to the community.

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1. Federal penitentiaries are operated by Correctional Services of Canada. What is the significance of the term "Correctional" in the name?
 2. Review the principles and circumstances involved in sentencing. Do you think Marge's 30-day jail sentence was fair, given her actions? Why or why not?

I'd rather let a thousand guilty men go free than chase after them.

BLACKSTONE'S FORMULATION AND CHIEF WIGGUM

While some characters' comments on *The Simpsons* may seem to be nothing more than absurd, there is often sophisticated knowledge behind them. One such instance was when Chief Wiggum commented "I'd rather let a thousand guilty men go free than chase after them" after watching a suspect drive away in the season 11 episode "Saddlesore Galactica."

While it may appear that Chief Wiggum is simply doing a poor job of enforcing the law, he is actually confusing a long-established legal principle.

Between 1765 and 1769, the English judge, jurist, and professor William Blackstone wrote *Commentaries on the Laws of England*. These four volumes were influential in guiding the evolution of the modern legal system. One of his better-known criminal law principles is commonly called Blackstone's Formulation. It states: "Better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer."

This principle speaks to the concept of presumed innocence. In criminal law, the accused is presumed innocent until guilt is proven beyond a reasonable doubt. In Canada, this right is enshrined in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Therefore, it seems that Chief Wiggum is confusing the principle's general idea: A person is innocent unless it is proven otherwise in a fair and public hearing. However, despite what Chief Wiggum thinks, Blackstone never intended for authorities to simply let suspects walk away.

1. Even though innocence is presumed, when a person is charged with a serious indictable offence they are not automatically set free until their trial takes place. A court must first determine whether the person can reasonably be expected to return for the trial, or the likelihood that the person will commit other offences before the trial.

- Find examples of people who have been released pending their trial. Were there conditions put on their release?
- Do you think imprisoning people suspected of serious crimes is a reasonable limitation on presumed innocence? Why or why not?

Teachers: For more information about criminal law, check out Teaching Youth Justice. Find it at plea.org



CASE STUDY: CONTRACT LAW AND THE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

While most people have been to an all-you-can-eat buffet, not many have been kicked out of one for overeating. Homer Simpson was, in the season four episode "New Kid on the Block."

THE CASE FACTS:

After seeing a television advertisement for The Frying Dutchman, Captain McAllister's all-you-can-eat seafood restaurant, Homer put on extra-loose pants and headed there for a gorging.

Homer began his meal by removing an entire steam tray of shrimp from the buffet. Allegedly, Homer ate all of the restaurant's shrimp and even two plastic lobsters before Captain McAllister finally kicked him out after closing time.

Enraged, Homer sought advice from attorney Lionel Hutz. Hutz described the situation as "the most blatant case of fraudulent advertising since my suit against the film *The Never-Ending Story*."

THE COURT PROCEEDINGS:

During the trial, the following exchange took place:

Hutz: Mrs. Simpson, what did you and your husband do after you were ejected from the restaurant?

Marge: We pretty much went straight home...

Hutz: Mrs. Simpson, you are under oath!

Marge: We drove around until 3AM looking for another all-you-can-eat fish restaurant.

Hutz: And when you couldn't find one?

Marge: We went fishing.

Hutz: Do these sound like the actions of a man who had *all* he could eat?

THE OUTCOME:

Captain McAllister and Homer came to an out-of-court settlement. An out-of-court settlement is an agreement by both parties to a lawsuit that resolves their legal dispute without asking a court to make a judgment. Generally, out-of-court settlements can be made at any time before a verdict is rendered by a judge or jury.

In Captain McAllister and Homer's out-of-court settlement, Homer was offered an evening of all-you-can-eat dining. In return, Captain McAllister would promote Homer as "Bottomless Pete - Nature's Cruellest Mistake" and invite customers to watch him eat. This settlement provided Homer with all the food he could eat while providing Captain McAllister with a stream of customers.





CONSIDERING CONTRACT LAW AND ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT RESTAURANTS

Homer's lawsuit against the Frying Dutchman has roots in contract law. A contract is a legally binding agreement between two or more persons or corporations, also called parties. One party promises to do something and the other party promises to do something in return. Some but not all contracts need to be in writing. However, to be enforceable, every contract must consist of three components:

- offer - a serious proposal which will lead to a contract being formed
- acceptance - an unconditional acceptance must be given that follows the terms of the offer. This acceptance can be either spoken or clearly indicated by actions
- consideration - something of value exchanged to fulfill the contract

It appears that Homer has a contractual agreement with The Frying Dutchman. Homer was offered all-you-can-eat seafood by The Frying Dutchman. His acceptance took place when he ordered the all-you-can-eat buffet. The consideration would have been the money exchanged for the food, although it should be noted that this part of the transaction was never shown on the episode.

However, for a contract to be binding, there must be genuine intention. In the eyes of the law, if a false representation of the material facts of a contract is knowingly made, fraud exists. If Captain McAllister offered all-you-can-eat seafood with the intention of not allowing his customers all they could eat, then it could constitute fraud. But it appears that Captain McAllister never imagined "a remorseless eatin' machine" such as Homer.

In regards to all-you-can-eat restaurants, a spokesman for the Iowa attorney general's office told the *Des Moines Register* that "Businesses are obligated to live up to their offers, but implementation needs to be reasonable." It would likely not be reasonable to expect a restaurant to provide all-you-can-eat to a patron who may leave other customers without food, or put the financial well-being of the restaurant in jeopardy.

Further, because restaurants are privately owned, they do have the right to exclude people from their premises provided that the exclusion is not based on factors such as discrimination against minorities. Given that Homer continued to eat past closing time, it was reasonable for The Frying Dutchman to eject him.

Shopper
S TOLD
CAN EAT"
FREE
...and is a buffet is just a style
...staff became concerned about
...meat for other patrons after
...up for his 12th slice of roast
...suggested the couple eat other
...stead.
...me surly and refused to leave
...d. Police had to be called in to



1. Do you think the court would have agreed with Hutz's claim of fraudulent advertising if an out-of-court settlement had not been reached? Explain.
2. Conceivably, at some point Homer would have had all he could eat. Given this, do you think that Captain McAllister was justified in cutting off Homer from the buffet? Why or why not?

TORTS AND THE LAW

In the season two episode “Bart Gets Hit by a Car,” Mr. Burns runs over Bart so Homer sues him for expenses and damages in relation to Bart’s injuries. However, Homer sues for substantially more than just the medical bills - he wants a million dollars. This lawsuit has its roots in an area of civil law known as torts.

WHAT IS A TORT?

The word tort simply means a wrong. A tort occurs when someone deliberately or carelessly causes harm or loss to another person or their property.

Generally, tort law is not about punishment but instead about determining damages such as medical bills and out-of-pocket expenses to which a dollar value is attached. There are also other types of damages, such as pain and suffering, that are difficult to measure in money. For these types of damages, a judge will award an amount she or he thinks is reasonable.

Much of the process of tort law involves determining who is at fault and the extent of the damage.

THE SIMPSONS’ CASE

Because Mr. Burns caused harm to Bart, Homer sued for medical bills and other damages. He likely had sound reason to try to get compensation for the medical bills, as this is consistent with the main purpose of tort law: The wrongdoer compensates the person who suffers a loss or injury.

However, in the hopes of getting a million dollars in damages, Homer coached Bart to lie and allowed false medical information from Dr. Nick Riviera to be presented in court.

While television often shows juries awarding enormous amounts of money as compensation to injured people, in Canada, having a jury in a civil case is rare and windfall compensation is rarer still. Because the true extent of Bart’s injuries were exposed during the court proceedings, Mr. Burns did not end up paying any damages, not even Bart’s medical bills.

*Oh for crying out loud.
Just give him a nickel and
let's get going.*

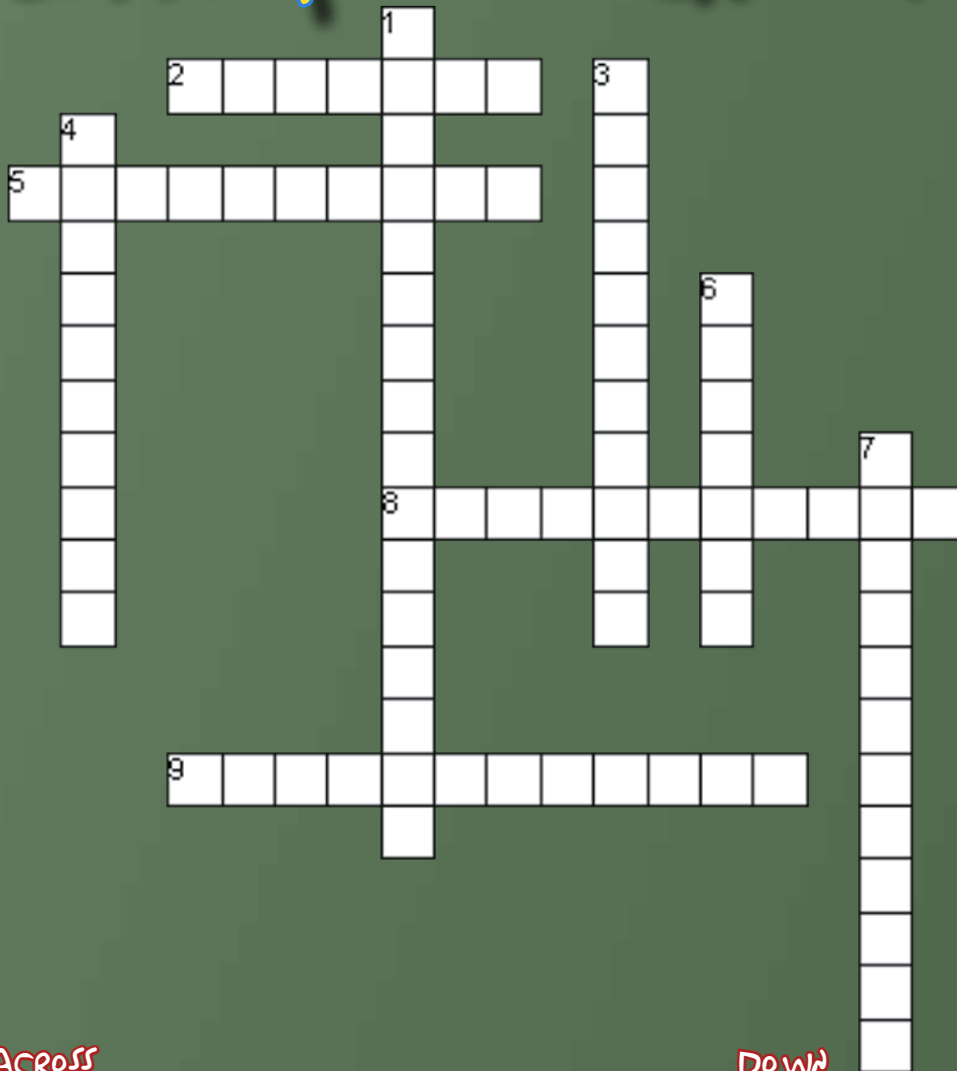


1. Given that Homer ended up with no money from Mr. Burns, what message does this episode send about abusing the legal system?
2. The awarding of substantial damages for pain and suffering is very rare in Canada.
 - a) What effect do you think this has on tort lawsuits?
 - b) What do you think about awarding substantial damages for pain and suffering?



A SIMPSONS LAW QUOTE CROSSWORD

Guess what mom?
I'm a cruciverbalist!



Identify the character who said each of the following law-related quotes. Answers will be the common name of the character, such as Principal Skinner, Bart Simpson, or Mr. Burns.

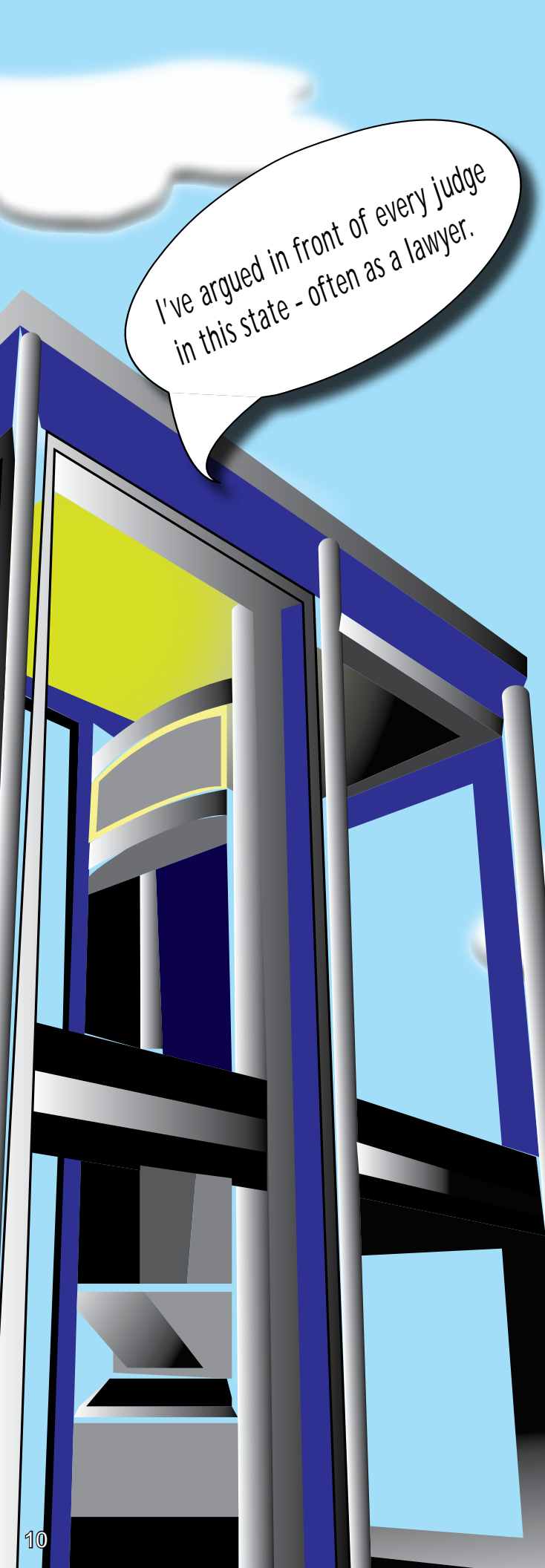
ACROSS

4. "Trick or Treat isn't just some phrase you chant mindlessly... It's an oral contract." ("Treehouse of Horror XVIII" - Season 19)
5. "You know, the courts may not be working any more, but as long as everyone is videotaping everyone else, justice will be done." ("Homer Bad Man" - Season 6)
6. "You let me down, man. Now I don't believe in nothing no more. I'm going to law school." ("Homer the Vigilante" - Season 5)
9. "If there's one thing America needs, it's more lawyers." ("Marge in Chains" - Season 4)
10. "Attempted murder, now honestly, what is that? Do they give a Nobel Prize for attempted chemistry?" ("Sideshow Bob Roberts" - Season 6)

DOWN

1. "We live in a society of laws! Why do you think I took you to all those Police Academy movies? For fun? Well, I didn't hear anybody laughing, did you?" ("Marge not Proud" Season - 7)
2. "Can't you people take the law into your own hands? I mean, we can't be policing the entire city!" ("The Secret War of Lisa Simpson" - Season 8)
3. "Justice is not a frivolous thing, Simpson. It has little if anything to do with a disobedient whale." ("The Boy Who Knew Too Much" - Season 5)
7. "Now who's ready to sleep with the fishes? Because I brought this Finding Nemo comforter." ("The Mook, the Chef, the Wife and Her Homer" - Season 18)
8. "This is America. Justice should favour the rich!" ("My Mother the Carjacker" - Season 15)

LIONEL HUTZ AND



I've argued in front of every judge in this state - often as a lawyer.

No analysis of *The Simpsons* and the law would be complete without considering the series' best-known lawyer, Lionel Hutz. Voiced by the late Phil Hartman, Lionel Hutz first appeared in the second season.

According to *The Simpsons Archive*, Lionel Hutz is named after real-life lawyer Sir Lionel Luckhoo, Q.C. A lawyer from Guyana, Luckhoo holds the *Guinness Book of World Records* title of "Most Successful Lawyer," with 245 consecutive successful defences in murder cases between 1940 and 1985.

Conversely, Lionel Hutz is anything but successful. He lives at the YMCA and his law office was once located in a phone booth. These Hutz quotes indicate the depth of his incompetence:

- Mr. Simpson, don't you worry. I watched Matlock in a bar last night. The sound wasn't on, but I think I got the gist of it.
- Ugh. If I hear "objection" and "sustained" one more time today I think I am going to scream.
- Mr. Simpson, the state bar forbids me from promising you a big cash settlement. But just between you and me, I promise you a big cash settlement.
- Lionel Hutz, court-appointed attorney. I'll be defending you on the charge of... Murder One! Wow! Even if I lose, I'll be famous!
- Uh-oh. We've drawn Judge Snyder. He's kind of had it in for me since I accidentally ran over his dog. Actually, replace "accidentally" with "repeatedly," and replace "dog" with "son."

LIONEL HUTZ AND THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF LAW

In the February 2003 issue of *Bench and Bar of Minnesota*, Minneapolis-based lawyer Larry M. Wertheim wrote that Lionel Hutz represents the "ultimate 'consumerization' of law." Wertheim pointed to several satirical instances that would indicate this:

- Hutz's offices operate in the Springfield Mall under the name "I Can't Believe It's a Law Firm."

Locating Hutz's law firm in a shopping mall and basing its name off of a margarine called "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter" suggests that accessing legal services is similar to purchasing groceries.

- When Homer was seeking legal services, Lionel Hutz told Homer that "You'll be getting more than just a lawyer, Mr. Simpson. You'll also be getting this exquisite faux pearl necklace, a \$99 value, as our gift to you."

Providing clients with bonus offers for seeking legal services is not allowed, and Hutz's offer suggests that accessing legal services is similar to buying consumer goods.

Wertheim connected *The Simpsons'* legal "consumerization" to an American Supreme Court ruling in 1977 that removed many restrictions on lawyers' advertisements. Prior to this ruling,

THE LEGAL PROFESSION



AS SEEN ON TV

Lionel Hutz
Attorney at Law

Phone Booth #80
Plaza Square
KLondike 5-LAWW

Clogging our courts since 1976

American lawyers were not allowed to advertise their services in newspapers, magazines, radio, or television.

While no truly outrageous advertisements for Lionel Hutz have been seen on *The Simpsons*, he has advertised that “Cases won in 30 minutes or your pizza’s free!” and one of his business cards included the tag line “As seen on TV.”

However, in reality since the 1977 American ruling there have been a handful of extreme American television advertisements for lawyers. For example, many Saskatchewan cable television viewers are familiar with New York lawyer Jim “The Hammer” Shapiro’s over-the-top commercials. Shapiro’s advertisements are currently archived on YouTube.

Because advertising legal services may assist the public in finding an appropriate lawyer and result in increased access to the legal system, Saskatchewan lawyers are permitted to advertise their services. However, the Law Society of Saskatchewan - the professional organization that oversees the province’s lawyers - applies strict rules. Saskatchewan lawyers’ advertisements:

- must be consistent with the public interest
- must not detract from the integrity, independence or effectiveness of the legal profession
- must not mislead or arouse unattainable hopes and expectations, because this could result in distrust of legal institutions and lawyers
- must not adversely affect the quality of legal services
- must not be so undignified, in bad taste or otherwise offensive as to be prejudicial to the interests of the public or the legal profession

1. Consider Lionel Hutz’s offer of a free pizza if a case is not won in thirty minutes, and the rules that the Law Society has placed upon lawyers’ advertisements.

- a) Would this kind of advertising be permitted under Saskatchewan’s guidelines? Why or why not?
- b) What does your answer to (a) reveal about the nature of satire?

2. A study completed for the American Bar Association, *Public Perceptions of Lawyers*, reported that people found some American lawyers’ advertising to be “unprofessional, overpromising, overly dramatic, and targeted to vulnerable people.” Search for an over-the-top American law firm advertisement on an online video website, and search for local lawyer advertisements found in your telephone directory.

- a) Do you believe that the American television advertisement would meet the guidelines required of Saskatchewan lawyers? Why or why not?
- b) How do the advertisements for local lawyers compare to the extreme American advertisement?

3. Do you think it is fair to base opinions of the legal profession on outliers such as outrageous American advertisements or satirical representations such as Lionel Hutz? Why or why not?



Teachers: To better understand what lawyers do in the community, consider inviting a lawyer to speak with your class. Head to plea.org and click on Book a Speaker for more information.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT LAW WITH THE SIMPSONS

While this issue of *The PLEA* has touched upon some instances of how *The Simpsons* can be used to learn about law, it by no means has covered all of the program's law-related themes. Just a few other episodes dealing with law include:

"Two Cars in Every Garage and Three Eyes on Every Fish" - Season 2

The fallout of a three-eyed fish being caught downstream from the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant results in Mr. Burns running for governor, in order to change environmental regulations. This episode can be used to consider environmental law and the democratic process.

"The Last Exit to Springfield" - Season 4

A general strike takes place at the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant, pitting Mr. Burns against the union. This episode can be useful for considering labour law.

"Homer vs. The Eighteenth Amendment" - Season 8

A prohibition law in Springfield results in Homer selling home-brewed alcohol. This episode demonstrates what may happen when laws are contrary to the moral compass of a community.

"The Mansion Family" - Season 11

While house-sitting for Mr. Burns, Homer takes Burns' yacht into international waters, where he believes "anything goes." This episode brings awareness to some issues surrounding international law.

There are many more Simpsons episodes that delve into the law, and integrating them into law-related education can have merit. In fact, several studies have indicated that *The Simpsons* can be used as an effective learning tool. Just keep in mind that television programs are copyrighted material and permission is required before playing episodes in classrooms.

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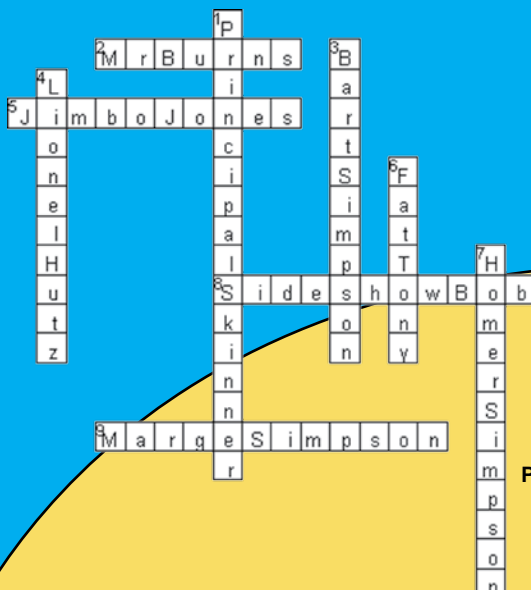
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Cartoons don't have any deep meaning. They're just stupid drawings that give you a cheap laugh.

PLEA 
Legal Information for Everyone

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ISSN: 0715-4224

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