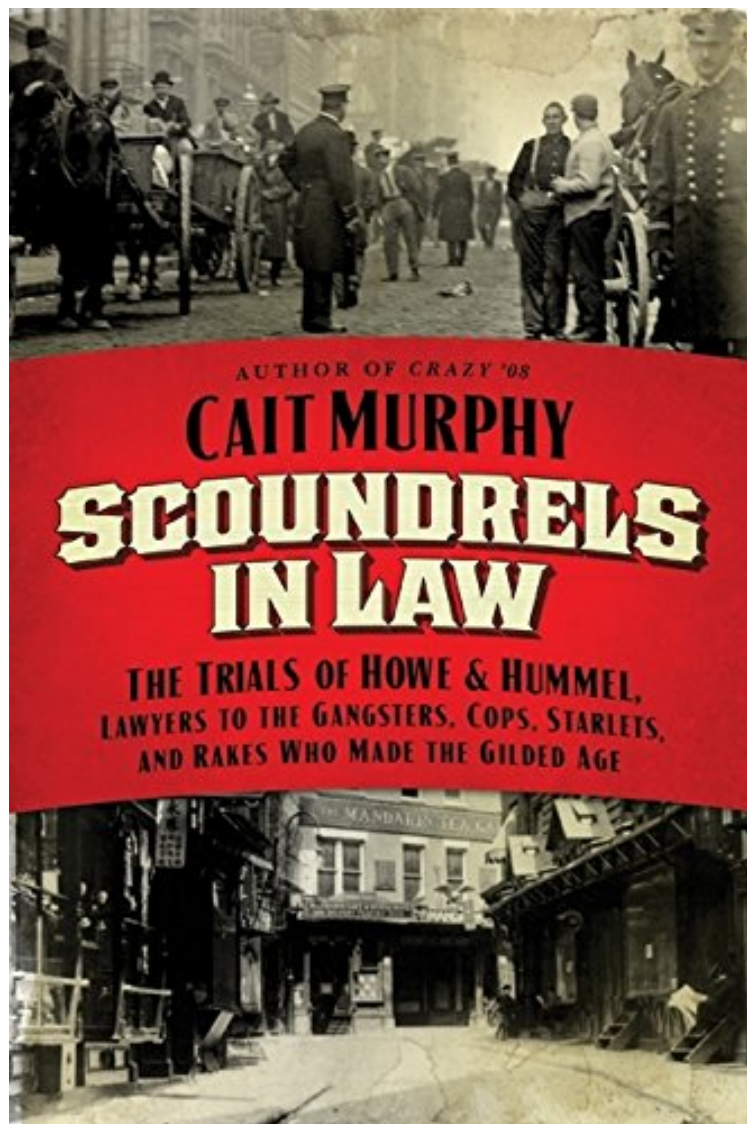


(Download pdf ebook) Scoundrels in Law: The Trials of Howe and Hummel, Lawyers to the Gangsters, Cops, Starlets, and Rakes Who Made the Gilded Age

Scoundrels in Law: The Trials of Howe and Hummel, Lawyers to the Gangsters, Cops, Starlets, and Rakes Who Made the Gilded Age

Cait N. Murphy

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Cait N. Murphy : Scoundrels in Law: The Trials of Howe and Hummel, Lawyers to the Gangsters, Cops, Starlets, and Rakes Who Made the Gilded Age before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scoundrels in Law: The Trials of Howe and Hummel, Lawyers to the Gangsters, Cops, Starlets, and Rakes Who Made the Gilded Age:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Criminal Lawyers-literally
By G. Ware Cornell Jr. I graduated from law school in 1975 just before the Bates decision by the US Supreme Court legalized lawyer advertising. One of the examples of methods used to circumvent the prohibition of professional advertising was the "shingle" of Howe Hummel which was twenty five feet high and could be seen all over the lower east side of New York from whence came many of the firm's clients. Neither Howe nor Hummel had any formal legal education. However Howe Hummel grew into a formidable powerhouse in the period from the end of the Civil War until the early twentieth century. Howe was a skilled trial lawyer or as the great Francis Wellman described him "verdict-getter". Howe was not so talented in court except when it came to finding willing perjurers or bribing court officials. Actually neither was above such shenanigans, leading to several disbarments of Hummel. Howe himself possessed an English conviction for fraud and did time in one of Her Majesty's (Queen Victoria) Prisons. But what a pair they were! Their offices were filled daily with petty thieves, political power-brokers and serious celebrities. Murder was Howe's speciality, although it was Hummel who found a loophole in the law which freed most of convicted murderers in the state. Howe was known to possess the ability to cry at will, although some argued that he rubbed a fresh onion in his handkerchief on the days scheduled for closing argument. Chock full of stories involving the partner's triumphs and defeats, Scoundrels in Law is a delight
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating look back
By RNI had never heard of Howe Hummel until I read this book. The story of Howe Hummel is at times sleazy but occasionally brilliant. However controversial they might have been, the partners clearly carved a place in legal history. And the cases they handled clearly cut across all classes of society. This was a very fascinating look at the practice of criminal law in an ugly, but critical, point in New York history.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cait is a very good author. She truly is eloquent and does her ...
By Wayne R. Vanderpool Cait is a very good author. She truly is eloquent and does her research. The book is very interesting to see how things truly were in the "Good old days", not that good.

A delightful romp through the theatrical courtrooms, seedy back alleys, and elegant parlors of Gilded Age New York. James McGrath Morris, author of Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power Only Dickens could have done more with this fabulously rich material. Terrific stuff. Eric Homberger, author of Mrs. Astor's New York Cait Murphy, author of Crazy '08, is back with Scoundrels in Law: a witty, irreverent book that details the life and outrageous times of the law partnership of Howe and Hummel quite possibly the most colorful one that ever was and in the process gives a whirlwind tour of the Big Apple at the end of the 19th Century.

From Booklist
The decades following the Civil War were characterized by explosive industrial expansion and virtually unchecked urban growth. Accompanying this growth was the emergence of a new moneyed class; many of these men operated on both sides of the law, protected by corrupt police and politicians. This was what Mark Twain called the Gilded Age, where a gilt surface hid the rot underneath. Still, many of these men required legal representation, and among the most skilled (and unprincipled) New York lawyers were William Howe and Abraham Hummel. Howe was a flamboyant, outrageous showman who flaunted courtroom decorum and excelled at playing on the heartstrings of jurors. Hummel was more restrained in court but a ruthless backroom operator. In Murphy's rendering, Howe and Hummel are fascinating and enjoyable characters when viewed at a distance, but she also sees them as worthy symbols of an age when amorality was elevated to a virtue. --Jay Freeman
From the Back Cover
From the critically acclaimed author of Crazy '08 comes the thrilling true story of the most colorful and notorious law firm in American history. Scoundrels in Law offers an inside look at crime and punishment in the nineteenth century, and a whirlwind tour of the Gilded Age. Gangsters and con men. Spurned mistresses and wandering husbands. Strippers and Broadway royalty. Cat killers and spiritualists. These were the friends and clients of Howe Hummel, the most famous (and famously rotten) law firm in nineteenth-century America. The partners gloried in their reputation and made a rich living from it. William Howe left London a step ahead of the law to find his destiny defending the perpetrators of murder and mayhem in post-Civil War New York, in an age of really good murders. A dramatic, diamond-encrusted presence, Howe was one of the great courtroom orators of his era, winning improbable acquittals time after time. Abraham Hummel enjoyed a quieter but perhaps more fearsome notoriety, shaking down high society so well and so often that receiving an envelope with the law firm's name on it became almost a rite of passage. The partners bestrode Gilded Age New York with wit and brio, and everyone from Theodore Roosevelt to Lola Montez had a part in their story. In Howe Hummel's prime, it would not have been unusual to see a leading politician, a pickpocket, a Broadway star, a bank robber, and a socialite all crowded together into the waiting room of their offices, located conveniently across the street from the city jail. Howe and Hummel were not particularly good men. They were perfectly ready even eager to lie, cheat, and bribe on behalf of their clients. They did stop short of murder, though, a principle that played a critical role when the famous firm imploded in a truly spectacular web of deceit gone wrong. Through the windows of the dingy premises of Howe Hummel, readers can glimpse the Gilded Age in all its grime and grandeur. Cait Murphy restores this once-famous duo to their rightful place in the pantheon of great American characters.
About the Author
Cait Murphy is the author of Crazy '08: How a Cast of Cranks, Rogues, Boneheads, and Magnates Created the Greatest Year in Baseball History and has worked at Fortune, the Economist, and the Wall Street Journal Asia in Hong

Kong. She lives in New York City.