

NOTABLE LAWYERS AND THEIR CLIENTS CYCLE THROUGH THE MEDIA FIRMAMENT

Gossip Girl mom **KELLY RUTHERFORD** is smitten with Fried, Frank vet and Ernst & Lindner partner **Marcus Ernst**.

A conference on "**BOB DYLAN AND THE LAW**" is held at Fordham Law School. **David Zornow** of Skadden delivers a talk entitled "Dylan's Judgment on Judges: Are Power, Greed and Corruptible Seed All That There Is?"

Charlie Sheen hires IP firm **Connolly Bove** to trademark 22 catchphrases, such as "Duh, Winning," "Tiger Blood," and "I'm Not Bi-Polar, I'm Bi-Winning."

Marvix Photo Inc., a photo agency repped by L.A. copyright firm **One LLP** (catchy, huh?) settled a suit with fan club network Fanpop for over \$3 million for posting copyrighted photos of **KATY PERRY**.

Jim Calhoun, coach of the NCAA champion **UCONN HUSKIES**, will be suspended for three games next season for recruiting violations, after he and Scott Tompsett of Kansas City's **Stinson Morrison Heckler** decide not to appeal the February finding.

Hogan Lovells starts to build its entertainment chops by successfully defending **20TH CENTURY FOX** and its movie **Alien vs. Predator** from a copyright infringement claim.

LESTER COHEN/GETTY IMAGES (PERRY); BILLY FARRELL (RUTHERFORD, ERNST); KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES (DYLAN); JEAN BAPTISTE LACROIX/GETTY IMAGES (SHEEN); STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES (UCONN)

A \$96 MILLION LUNCH?

At the courthouse with Paul Dagerdas and Raj Rajaratnam.

HERE AT BAR TALK, OUR world revolves around The Am Law 200. So when we heard that Paul Dagerdas—the notorious tax lawyer whose dubious doings helped put former 600-lawyer powerhouse Jenkens & Gilchrist out of business—was on trial in the federal court building in downtown Manhattan, we just had to be there.

Dagerdas is a heavyset man whose hair is grayer than it was when he was on the cover of *The American Lawyer* early in the last decade. ["Helter Shelter," December 2003]. Dagerdas is accused of bilking the United States out of billions of dollars through illegal tax shelters and allegedly pocketing a cool \$96 million. He faces 23 counts of conspiracy, tax evasion,

and obstruction; each count could mean three to five years in prison.

Dagerdas was on trial this spring, along with former partner Donna Guerin and three others. Erwin Mayer, a former partner of Dagerdas's at Jenkens, had also been indicted, but he pled guilty and is looking at ten years in prison. As Mayer took the stand in late March, there were, literally, dozens of eyeballs on him, mostly belonging to well-dressed attorneys crowded around rows of tables inside the courtroom's well.

If it weren't for the lawyers, the courtroom would have been almost completely empty. The crowds were downstairs, watching the man known simply as Raj. In fact, demand for seats at Raj Rajaratnam's insider trading trial

were so hard to come by that Bar Talk thought it was waiting in line for Radiohead tickets. Securities lawyers, financial analysts, traders, and reporters were all there to see the former Galleon Group CEO—a hedge fund star who once made the *Forbes* list of richest Americans—fight for his freedom in what prosecutors have called the largest insider trading case ever prosecuted.

The different atmosphere was pounded home a few days after Bar Talk's visit, when we opened *The New York Times* to find Raj on the cover of the business section, his trial described as "a suspenseful, complex financial version of *Law & Order* that could have a cliffhanger ending." Dagerdas, meanwhile, hasn't rated a single mention in the

newspaper since his trial began.

Different atmosphere, same defense: Both men behaved lawfully and were simply better at acting on available information than others. They were too good.

Something else the men had in common: Lunch was a very mundane affair. Raj walked across the hallway to an empty courtroom to confer with his lawyers from Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld and eat.

Dagerdas and his attorneys from Jenner & Block headed to the eighth-floor cafeteria. The trial had started in March, and Dagerdas had evidently become a regular. He handed three cards to the cashier—a credit card, a drink card, and a meal club card. Buy 11, get one free. —VICTOR LI