Ever wondered who would play you in a movie? Attorney Geoffrey Fieger has found out. Award-winning actor Danny Huston has been cast to play Fieger in a biopic about Dr. Jack Kevorkian, set to air on HBO next April.

You Don’t Know Jack also stars Al Pacino as Kevorkian, Susan Sarandon as Janet Good, and John Goodman as Neal Nicol.

The movie is based on the book Between the Dying and the Dead: Dr. Jack Kevorkian’s Life and the Battle to Legalize Euthanasia by Neal Nicol and Harry Wylie. It is directed by Academy Award winner Barry Levinson (Rain Man).

Huston, son of Academy Award-winning director John Huston (African Queen, The Treasure of the Sierra Madre) and brother of actress Angelica Huston (The Addams Family, The Royal Tenenbaums), has appeared in more than 20 films including X-Men Origins: Wolverine, Leaving Las Vegas, The Aviator, The Constant Gardener, 30 Days of Night and Marie Antoinette. He recently portrayed Samuel Adams in the award-winning HBO miniseries John Adams. He also co-stars in the upcoming epic Robin Hood starring Russell Crowe.

Fieger was hired by HBO to serve as a script consultant and has been working with Huston.

“In the story, I have met with Danny Huston to go over his lines as I would have said them,” Fieger said. “It was easy.”

Fieger predicts the film will garner Emmy nominations, including Pacino for Best Actor.

Fieger became internationally known as he represented “Dr. Death” in all seven of his trials throughout the 1990s. Fieger took on Kevorkian’s cause pro bono, believing that every American should have the legal right to die. Kevorkian chose to represent himself in his last trial when he lost and went to prison for nine years.

Stay tuned to the Fieger Times for more on You Don’t Know Jack.
Fieger Law TV ads took to the street this summer. For six weeks ending Sept. 11, Screen Source Media broadcast Fieger Law ads on a massive video screen on the side of Music Hall in Detroit, located on the corner of Brush and Madison near 36th District Court.

Approximately 20,000 pedestrians passed the Fieger Law message each day – even more saw it on their way to see Tigers games, Lions preseason games, and concerts by artists like Kid Rock and Kenny Chesney.


Fieger Law stages outdoor ad campaign

Fieger, Fieger, Kenney, Johnson & Giroux, P.C.    248.355.5555    www.fiegerlaw.com

Fieger, Fieger, Kenney, Johnson & Giroux, P.C.

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Vanessa Kouloumberis, legal asst.

VEN JOHNSON
Shannon Ogden, paralegal
Sharon Armetead, paralegal

BOB GIROUX
Stephanie Stipanovich, asst.
Helen Joyner, paralegal

Todd Weglarz
Rebecca Walsh
Bill McHenry
Paul Broschay
Arnie Matusz
Victor Valenti
Jeffrey Danzig
James Harrington IV
Heather Jefferson
Thomas M. Lizzi
Michael Dezsi
Leon Weiss
Greg Wix
Michael Ralton
Jack Beam, of counsel
Barry Fayne, of counsel

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Nancy Fisher

Receptionists
Jennine
Erin

Paralegals
Mary Wilson
Liza Dodson
Laura Bertus
Sandra Ryckman
Deirdre Bush
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Mary Mergos
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Cheryl Jann
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Cindy Tavi
Michalene Sowinski
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Jury Consultant
Steve Hnat
Courier Supervisor
Anna Trimble
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Georgia Banyai
Ann Marie Keith
Project Mgr.
Jeff Cope
Building Mgr.
Tom Baulch
Information Systems Mgrs.
Rachel Stevens
Eric Donahue
Anthony Cairo

Couriers
Alexis Farion

Intake Department
Justin Fisher
Colette Jenkins

In Memoriam
Bernard Fieger
June Fieger
Jeremiah Kenney
Tammy Reiss

In Memoriam
Bernard Fieger
June Fieger
Jeremiah Kenney
Tammy Reiss

Fieger goes on ‘Motor City Hayride’

Stay tuned to The Motor City Hayride on Sirius Radio for an interview with Geoffrey Fieger. Fieger was one of the first guests interviewed for the new show, hosted by legendary Detroit musician and producer Don Was.

The Motor City Hayride is a Detroit-themed program that highlights local heroes, from rocker Mitch Ryder to author Elmore Leonard, in various locales in the Motor City.

Was described the show as ‘a unique jambalaya of Detroit civic pride and renegade country music.’

“We’ll spin some cool records — some of which come from my personal stash of unreleased masters — and interview local notables who are keeping the city interesting and vibrant,” was said.

Was grew up in Oak Park (as did Fieger), and now resides in Los Angeles. He has released award-winning records as part of Was (Not) Was, and produced an awe-inspiring array of musicians including The Rolling Stones and The Knack (fronted by Geoffrey Fieger’s brother Doug).

The Motor City Hayride airs on Sirius Radio Channel 63 Outlaw Country on Saturdays at 10 p.m., with rebroadcasts Sundays at 1 a.m. and Mondays at 10 a.m.
For the third year in a row, attorney Geoffrey Fieger spent part of his summer vacation at the Gerry Spence Trial Lawyer's College in Dubois, Wyoming.

Spence — known as much for his trademark fringed cowboy jacket as his defense of clients like Karen Silkwood, Imelda Marcos and Geoffrey Fieger himself — founded TLC 13 years ago as a non-profit organization.

Its aim is to help plaintiff's attorneys delve into the emotional aspects of cases in order to better represent their clients and reach out to jurors in a meaningful way.

Classes are held in wooden barns and cabins on Spence's rural 200-acre ranch, with majestic views of the Wind River Mountains.

In July, Fieger was invited to deliver a keynote presentation to 55 attorneys from across the country attending the intense, three-week retreat.

"My presentation was about why the Trial Lawyers College method, developed by Gerry Spence and his peers, is the only proven method to consistently win plaintiff civil cases," Fieger said. "It essentially involves understanding one's own fears and prejudices, and how to crawl into the hide of your opponent."

TLC uses psychodrama, a form of group therapy in which participants go through role-playing exercises to tap into their emotions and empathize with their clients and witnesses.

"The intention is to develop a psychological framework to understand the real story in the case. It's all about storytelling. You must be able to tell a story in the courtroom," Fieger said. "I have directed all the attorneys at Fieger Law to adopt the TLC method in order to be more successful."

To that end, Fieger Law attorneys Paul Broschay and Arnie Matusz attended TLC's summer session this year.

Broschay admitted the psychodrama technique was challenging at times.

"It was something I was certainly not used to and that I'd never experienced, but I've already utilized some of the techniques with judges, defense lawyers and clients," Broschay said. "I think it's made me a better attorney."

Spence said Fieger shared a valuable lesson during his presentation. "Geoffrey inspires. That is the product of his great charisma. One listens and one believes," Spence said. "He has shown TLC attendees that charisma and passion have a place in the courtroom. Rarely, if ever, have lawyers heard the likes of this man. We are tuned to the intellect, the left brain, and it betrays us before juries. Geoffrey shows us how the whole brain can work to bring justice. After all, justice is a feeling, isn't it?"

For more information, visit www.triallawyerscollege.com. 

The Trial Lawyers College is dedicated to educating lawyers and judges who are committed to obtaining justice for the poor, the injured, the forgotten, the voiceless, the defenseless and the damned."
Johnson wins $6.1M verdict in crash

On April 30, 2009 partner Ven Johnson won a $6.1 million verdict on behalf of a woman injured in a crash with a Roseville Police officer, which occurred on Dec. 28, 2007. Salim Zeidan and his wife, Suzette Zeidan, were driving home after exchanging Christmas gifts at the mall when Lt. Thomas Mulhern ran a red light and hit the couple's car as they turned left from Utica Road onto 13 Mile. This occurred despite the light being red for Mulhern for nearly nine seconds.

Mr. Zeidan, 83, spent three days in the hospital being treated for a fractured sternum and kneecap. His wife fared much worse.

Mrs. Zeidan, 82, was in the hospital for 10 days, healing from surgery to rebuild a shattered hip. She then was admitted to a nursing home for more care and treatment. After a year of outpatient rehabilitation, she was diagnosed with hypertrophic bone formation, an agonizing condition that causes bones to grow abnormally.

“The orthopedic surgeon testified that her bone formation is so bad she will never walk normally again and she will be in constant pain every day for the rest of her life,” Johnson said. “He literally testified this lady’s life has been ruined.”

Soon after the accident, while in the hospital and nursing home, Mrs. Zeidan also began showing signs of delirium, which an expert psychiatrist testified was caused by brain damage suffered in the crash.

“The accident will forever change the course of her brain functions,” Johnson said.

It has been proven that juries in Macomb County take their civil liberties very seriously.”

A registered nurse who witnessed the accident and helped the Zeidans at the scene, testified that Mulhern told her he hadn’t seen the red light or the Zeidan’s car because he had been on his cell phone.

The case was tried in Macomb County Circuit Court before the Honorable Judge Mark Switalski. Within two months, the City of Roseville voluntarily paid $5 million rather than appeal.

“I am so proud of this Macomb County jury. They ignored the defense arguments that Mrs. Zeidan was ‘getting old anyway’ and ‘was not going to live very much longer’,” Johnson said. “The jury clearly believed that Mulhern lied on the witness stand and that from the time of the accident through the time of trial the City of Roseville disrespected Mrs. Zeidan and the significance and permanence of her injuries. It is the Zeidan’s hope as well all of the attorneys at Fieger Law, that this verdict will help other injury victims in Macomb County obtain justice more easily since it has been proven that juries in Macomb County take their civil liberties very seriously.”

Legal Lesson

**Question:** If the owner of a car loans the car to a friend or family member who then causes a crash resulting in personal injury to another person, can the owner be held liable for the injuries caused by the crash?

**Answer:** Yes. In Michigan, we have a statute commonly referred to as the “Owner’s Liability” statute which imposes liability on an owner of a motor vehicle for any injuries caused by the negligence of a permissive user of the motor vehicle. The statute is why I tell my family, friends and clients to title their cars in the name of the person who will be driving the car regularly, e.g., son, daughter, spouse. It is also the reason I tell them not to title any car in more than one name, especially if the two people are married as it could expose all marital assets to collection.
Jack Beam
Of Counsel

Since 1983 Jack Beam, a former Assistant U.S. Attorney, along with his partner “Doctor” Doug Raymond, have represented children in more than 20 states who are victims of cerebral palsy and birth injuries caused by hospital and doctor negligence during labor and delivery. Beam first teamed with Fieger on a record-setting case in Washington, Penn. “Geoffrey’s $31 million jury verdict, including interest, is the largest recovery in a medical malpractice case in Pennsylvania,” Beam said.

In 2004, Beam was named “Of Counsel” to Fieger Law. Here, the author and attorney muses about his writings, unctuous Italian landlords and his greatest hero of fiction.

What is your favorite color?
Maizenblue

What is your favorite restaurant?
HB on N. Halsted in Chicago

Who is your favorite Detroit celebrity?
Geoffrey Nels Fieger

Where is your favorite place to be?
Ann Arbor conjuring up those halcyon college days

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Dinner with Renee, Bjorn & Bianca

Which historical figure do you most identify with?
Thomas Paine

What is your favorite song?
“Every Sperm is Sacred” from Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life is my YouTube favorite

Which living person do you most admire?
The moms (and a very few dads) who care for our cerebral palsy clients 24/7

Which trait in yourself do you most deplore?
Environmental hypocrisy

What trait do you most deplore in others?
Religious hypocrisy

What’s your greatest extravagance?
International travel

What is your greatest regret?
My mom never got to see any of her grandchildren

When & where were you the happiest?
At the Denver Christmas Party Dec. 9, 1982 when I first saw my wife Renee

Which talent would you most like to have?
To play piano

What is your current state of mind?
Optimism v. Mortality

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
My lack of fluency in a foreign language

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

What is your most treasured possession?
Our Glen Lake house

Where would you most like to live?
Florence or London

What is your most marked characteristic?
Intolerance about intolerance

What do you most value in your friends?
Humour

Who are your favorite writers?
Will Durant, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mark Twain, Charles Dickens & Carl Hiaasen

Who is your favorite hero of fiction?
Jesus

Who is your hero in real life:
Nine letter winner at WMU; Director of Phys. Ed., Battle Creek Public Schools; U of M School of Public Health grad; Lt. Cmdr. U.S.N. WWII; Big Ten football official; physical therapist to polio victims and my dad, Nick Beam

How would you like to die?
Without Alzheimer’s

If you were a speech part, what would you be?
An Italian verb

If you were a car, what kind would you be?
The kind that ex-GM CEO’s could and should have produced

If you were food, what kind would you be?
Pasta

If you were an animal, what kind would you be?
My mutt-dog Repo

If you were fine art, what form would you take?
Cinema—preferably one of my screenplays set in Michigan. (Will someone please call Jeff Daniels!)

What’s your motto?
“The only sin is ignorance.” Christopher Marlowe

What’s your favorite quote about the law?
“If there were no bad people, there would be no good lawyers.” Charles Dickens
The death of Michael Jackson on June 25, 2009 rocked music fans around the world. Attorney Geoffrey Fieger recalls meeting Jackson in 1998, when the King of Pop supported Fieger's bid for Governor. They were introduced by Jackson friend Don Barden. “He was taller than I thought he would be!” Fieger said.