

ILLEGAL JUSTICE

LOGLINE

On her first day as an Immigration Court judge, Julia Bauer, a seasoned Austrian lawyer is confronted by a young refugee who exposes the xenophobia she's long denied—forcing her to risk everything or remain complicit.



ILLEGAL JUSTICE

FEATURE LENGTH DRAMA

INSPIRED BY REAL EVENTS

FROM 2013 TO 2017 IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA



A Judge dares to consider the actions needed to release her prejudices and reimagine the meanings of law and justice. Then she takes them.

ILLEGAL JUSTICE

SYNOPSIS

This story is about one woman's journey to rediscover and reimagine the meanings of justice and law.

It opens in 2013, a couple of years into the Syrian war when the refugee issue has mushroomed in the EU and surrounding countries. The EU uses its stringent laws to protect itself from the deluge. It runs through 2017.

Julia Bauer, an Austrian Judge committed to family and career, moves to Immigration Court as a way to help her country. She is blind to her xenophobia. Her belief system is cracked by a series of confrontations in her courtroom and her personal life.

Konrad, her husband, is CEO of an IT Security company, as well as an alpha male who loves his family and his country. He opposes Julia's change of attitude.

Emily Belsano, best friend and lead war correspondent for Der Standard, guides Julia into the world of refugees and the people in Vienna who help, by stretching the law. She introduces Julia to Roshanak Farhi, a wise Syrian woman who is the mother of Faizah Farhi, Julia's adversary. Faizah is passionate, a gifted linguist and a powerful activist.

Julia ultimately leaves the court and her marriage and finds her heart and soul, bruised but intact.

THEMES THAT EXPLORE THE NECESSITY FOR CHANGE BEFORE LAWS CAN BE EFFECTIVE AND JUSTICE REALIZED



**ABILITY OF LEGAL SYSTEM TO
SOLVE SOCIAL ISSUES**



RIGHTS OF PRIVILEGE



**RESPONSE TO THOSE
DIFFERENT FROM US**

ILLEGAL JUSTICE CHARACTERS

JULIA GABLER, 50

Julia is a successful judge, blind to her xenophobia and noted for her rationality. Seeking to assist her community with the serious refugee issue she transfers to the Immigration Court with no awareness of the chaos that is about to result. Seemingly disparate issues combine and her stable life is threatened. It begins with an ugly confrontation in her courtroom, followed by a head-to-head with her best friend, then an encounter on a mountain path, and finally the death of her Nana, whose parting words "release them" haunt her. She seeks the truth in the chaos.



ILLEGAL JUSTICE CHARACTERS

FAIZAH FARHI, 21

Syrian refugee, multi-lingual, passionate, gifted and a powerful activist, confronts Julia in her courtroom. She feels for her people and will not surrender her rights or her culture.



ILLEGAL JUSTICE CHARACTERS

EMILY BELSANO, 49

Julia's best friend is the lead war correspondent for Der Standard. Emily takes Julia into the refugees' world and introduces her to the people who help them stretch the law.



ROSHANAK FARHI, 40s

Faizah's mother, a wise woman who understands the inner workings of human beings. She is a believer in connection not separation. Roshanak becomes Julia's trusted guide.



KONRAD GABLER, 53

Julia's husband, could have leader stamped on his forehead. CEO of an IT company, loves his country and his family. He makes an increasing move to the right.





ILLEGAL JUSTICE

JULIA

I see at your last session on November 7, 2013 original documents were requested that would confirm the history of your client. I don't see them in my folder.

SCHULZ

That is correct, Your Honor. There are no remaining original documents. They were destroyed in the war zone. We do have copies of original documents.

JULIA

As you know, copies are not acceptable in this court.
Do you have any other supporting information for today's hearing?

SCHULZ

I have a witness...



JULIA'S LIFE



ACT 1

Julia believes she is a woman in charge and events lead to an increasing awareness that she is not.

ACT 3

Julia leaves the court and her marriage and finds her heart and soul - bruised yet intact.

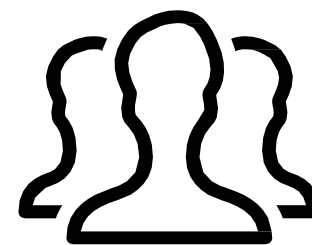
ILLEGAL JUSTICE



ACT 2

Julia's ordered life goes off course as she confronts her fears and the unknown.





ILLEGAL JUSTICE

CREATIVE TEAM



KATHLEEN O'NEILL

WRITER, PRODUCER

Kathleen is a writer, actor and director in New York City. She began her career in theatre as an actor then added a master's degree in directing. Writing has been an aspect of her work and her main focus for the past few years. It is another way to explore truth and its variations.



KATHARINA SCHEUBA

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, TRANSLATOR

Katharina Scheuba is a quadrilingual actress & medical doctor. She grew up in Vienna, the United States and has lived in different cities across Europe and the US. She studied medicine in Vienna and Philadelphia and acting in NYC. She has played lead roles in several feature films, pilots and short films, both nationally and internationally.