

on the job

Boston Legal

Using a rough-and-tumble lawyer as a recurring character, David Hosp '90 has made it as an author without abandoning his day job. BY MARIA KARAGIANIS

DAVID HOSP SEEMS TOO WELL ADJUSTED to be a writer—or a lawyer for that matter. Yet at 39, he's successful as both.

In a windowed club 38 floors above Boston, the genial intellectual property lawyer and author of three successful legal thrillers gestures toward the harbor below, explaining how his literary career began. "I commute to Boston by ferry," Hosp explains, noting that he travels from the South Shore suburb of Cohasset, where he lives with his wife of seven years and their two young children, to his law firm Goodwin Procter LLP in the financial district. "Everyone is always looking to take the fast ferry," Hosp explains, "but I'm always looking to take the slow ferry."

The reason is that Hosp wants time to write. In fact, his literary career was literally born in 2003 on the slow boat across Boston Harbor, where twice a day, five days a week, the newly married young father found the peace and quiet necessary to start writing *Dark Harbor* by longhand on a yellow legal pad. It was published in 2005 and followed a year later by *Betrayed*. His third book, *Innocence*, is based on a real death row exoneration case Hosp was involved with as a volunteer for the nonprofit Innocence Project, founded by lawyers Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld to revisit questionable convictions using DNA evidence.

All three books feature an ensemble of quirky, colorful and well-drawn characters. The lead character in all of them, Scott Finn, at first glance, could not be more different than his creator. While Hosp is the product of a self-described happy childhood in Westchester County and an Ivy League education, Finn is an orphan and former juvenile-delinquent-in-training from a hardscrabble Boston neighborhood. The fictional Finn is a lawyer though, who in the first book is practicing at a major Boston firm. By book three he has jumped ship to open his own small law office in nearby Charlestown. Other recurring characters include Finn's on-again, off-again love interest, the beauteous Boston police detective Linda Flaherty; Finn's grizzled ex-cop sidekick, the cynical Tom Kozlowski; and Kozlowski's eventual love interest, the sexy and "gutter-mouthed Lissa," as she is

described in *Kirkus Reviews*.

Hosp is currently working on a fourth book, *Among Thieves*, a fictional account of the search for paintings stolen in 1990 from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

He is either coy or keeping his ego firmly in check when talking about exactly how well he's done as a novelist.

David Hosp,
photographed
January 13
near Boston.

