Superheroes and the Law

by
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Steven Gallagher was awarded a first class LL.B. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2006. Steven teaches the equity and trusts courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students. Steven also teaches a course on art, antiquities, cultural heritage and the law on the LLM programme. Steven has presented continuing professional development courses for solicitors in Hong Kong on many topics associated with equity. Steven's research interests include equity and the law of trusts, cultural heritage law and legal history.

The highly successful Marvel Cinematic Universe films portray incidents which raise many ethical and legal questions. This three-hour seminar will provide an introduction and overview of the issues that arise in these films and other superhero films. These legal issues range from the commonplace to the esoteric. For the former we will consider, for example, intellectual property issues, the possibility of criminal and civil liability for personal injury and property damage, and the procedural and evidential issues that may arise with regard to prosecuting superheroes or receiving evidence from them. The more esoteric topics considered include international humanitarian law, aviation law, the law and artificial intelligence and robotics, and space law. No prior knowledge of the films or comics is necessary. Apart from the international and outer space law issues, the law discussed will be the law of Hong Kong.

Some of the questions considered in this seminar include:

- When Thanos killed/destroyed the Vision - was this murder or criminal damage?
- Is it murder for Blade to kill/destroy a vampire?
- Can we prosecute a vampire for murder if they are not alive?
- Are the Green Goblin and the Joker legally insane?
- Is Loki's mind control of Hawkeye insane or non-insane automatism - or something else?
- Who is responsible for death and destruction caused by an automated weapon or an android?
- Which court may have jurisdiction over a Norse god?
- Do superheroes have to remove their masks to give evidence in court?
- Who pays for the cleanup when the Avengers save the world?
- Is superhero damage covered in standard insurance policies?
- May SHIELD use electronic surveillance on anyone?
- May Spiderman sue if someone exposes his identity as Peter Parker?
- After the "snap", could those who returned claim the property they owned before?
- Is there a special law for space piracy?
- Which court might have jurisdiction over the criminal actions of the Guardians of the Galaxy?

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Code:	**EVT000000345**	Level:	**Intermediate**
Date:	**4 October 2021 (Monday)**	Language:	**English**
Time:	**14:30 - 17:45** (Reception starts at 14:00)	Accreditation(s):	**LSHK 3.0 CPD Points**
Venue:	*Option of:* (1) **Online** via Zoom; *or* (2) **Kornerstone Institute** 15/F, Hip Shing Hong Centre 55 Des Voeux Road Central Central, Hong Kong	Request for Rerun:	**Please Contact Us for Details**

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