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When a kinky sportscaster, a bad-boy basketball star and a Kennedy found themselves looking at time in the slammer, they turned to Roy Black.

One of the most recognized criminal defense lawyers in the nation, with the possible exception of Johnnie Cochran, Black first entered the national limelight with the William Kennedy Smith rape trial in 1991. Tall and lanky, with a battered briefcase and a gosh-shucks smile, Black exuded a Jimmy Stewart-kind of charm; he seemed anything but a hired gun for America's most famous family. (Or, for that matter, like the temporarily pony-tailed CNN legal analyst he became a few years later.)

Despite the woman's tearful testimony against Smith, Black won the case after clearly winning over the jury, who took all of 77 minutes to return a not-guilty verdict. He also won the heart of one juror in particular, Lea Haller, whom he married after a courtship that started when they bumped into each other after the trial at Palm Beach's Au Bar—where William Kennedy Smith met the woman on the night of the alleged rape.

About the Smith case, Black says, "It didn't make me any better of a lawyer but it probably made me more well known."

And Smith's acquittal was no more miraculous than many other victories Black has pulled off, including cases that were dismissed, ended with hung juries or were reversed on appeal. Some of these included shootings by Miami police in two separate incidents, each sparking days of rioting; former Miami Beach Mayor Alex R. Rios, who was

federal counts including conspiracy and tax violations; bank president Fred de la Mata on charges of money laundering and bribery, and a woman known as the "Queen of Cocaine."

Black's other well-known clients have included *Frasier* star Kelsey Grammer, whom he represented on drug charges; sportscaster Marv Albert on an oral sodomy case; and former NBA player Dennis Rodman and starlet Carmen Electra on domestic violence charges after a night of partying on South Beach.

Black regularly appears on CNN and NBC, providing legal analysis on cases ranging from the Florida ballot issue last year to the disappearance of Capitol Hill intern Chandra Levy, teacher-killer teen Nathaniel Brazil, and Marc Rich, the subject of the Clinton pardon scandal.

He's written a book, *Black's Law*, available on Amazon.com about some of his lesser known cases. The title is a takeoff on the legal reference book. The book was an opportunity to educate people on the reality of the legal process and express his views, Black says.

He is mindful that celebrity can work against him in his law practice. "People think people who are well-known are arrogant and self-serving."

To that end, he has tried to keep his celebrity in check. He's turned down interviews for *Playboy* profiles twice. "Mainly, my wife didn't want me to appear anywhere near naked women," he says. There was also the time during the O.J. Simpson murder trial madness when *The National Enquirer* asked him to supervise a polygraph test of Simpson. He said no to that, too.

Black has been in practice in Miami for more than 31 years, starting out as a county public defender after earning the highest score on the Florida Bar exam. He was well-known in the legal community before he came to the attention of the national media.

"Most of the judges know I act as a lawyer, not as being on *Hollywood Squares*. Whenever I do some-

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