



engineer, “building things and blowing things up.” He served in Operation Desert Storm and was stationed in Berlin before and after the wall came down. “It was bizarre,” he says. “I had a special briefcase with my plans in case of World War III.”

➔ **He’s a coach.** In Berlin, Valley got a job as an extra in a film called “The Innocent.” “Anthony Hopkins played an American intelligence agent, and in one scene, he was tossing a football,” Valley recalls. “He wasn’t doing it right and I felt a sense of duty.” He told the Oscar winner: “‘Mr. Hopkins, I don’t know how to say this, but you throw like a girl.’ Then I showed him how to do it.”

➔ **He’s a cult star.** Valley played a spoiled rich guy on the highly acclaimed but short-lived *Pasadena*. Then followed another cult-favorite series, *Keen Eddie*, in which he played a New York cop in London. A then-unknown Sienna Miller starred as his roomie. “She was really talented and stunningly beautiful,” he says fondly. “She has a timorous unpredictability.”

➔ **He might be the next great American writer.** A few years ago he penned a one-man show, “Walls, Wars and Whiskey,” about his experiences in the military, and continues to write short stories. “It’s not the sort of ‘lad lit’ you’d expect from a guy who could be on the cover of *GQ*,” Bowen says. “It’s introspective work about family and growing up in the tundra of upstate New York.”

➔ **He’s a thief.** Well, only when it comes to learning from his *Boston Legal* compadres: “From James Spader I am learning what to take more seriously, from William Shatner I am learning what *not* to take so seriously, and from Candice Bergen I am learning the wisdom to know the difference.”

The Secret Lives of ➔ Mark Valley

Boston Legal’s hotshot attorney gives us his deposition BY DAVID A. KEEPS

As the right-leaning lawyer in a left-wing firm, *Boston Legal*’s Brad Chase has often been mocked by his wackier—and less handsome—colleagues. But lately, things are looking up for the all-American litigator played by Mark Valley: The office fox, Denise Bauer (Julie Bowen), is pregnant with their child and has finally admitted that she loves him. While he took the Fifth on whether they’ll live happily ever, the 42-year-old actor did go on the record about some of his other identities.

➔ **He’s Mr. Jock.** Valley, who was born in upstate New York, grew up water-skiing on the St. Lawrence River. In high school he played quarterback, ran track and shot hoops. These days he practices martial arts and yoga, and is learning to hang ten. “A friend and I

go out at 7am and just gossip,” he says. “I like the social aspect of it, which apparently isn’t surfing. It’s more like the women’s hair salon version.”

➔ **He’s a superhero.** “Mark’s favorite character to do on set to bust me up is Captain Underpants,” Bowen says. “He’s a combination of a children’s character—a doughy white man with superpowers—and the harmless office pervert with no verbal censor. Captain rubs his chest while repeating ‘Underpants’ and looking almost innocently at women. It’s disturbing and very funny.”

➔ **He used to be G.I. Joe.** “I grew up with Scotch-Irish values—fighting for the clan, serving your country,” says the West Point grad. Valley spent five years in the military as a combat