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THE GIFT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Our First (Allegedly) Annual Shopping Guide Showcases Gifts for Lawyers, by Lawyers

BY JILL SCHACHNER CHANEN

Ho, Ho, Ho! Does the sound of every street-corner Santa make you cringe at the thought of the holiday shopping that you haven't yet done because you've been preoccupied with, oh, a few little things like clients, trials, closings and depositions?

Fear not, hardworking lawyers. We are making your life easier with our First (Allegedly) Annual Holiday Gift Guide. From music to books to the simply humorous, we think you can't go wrong with our picks because everything here is made by lawyers for lawyers.

TUNES

Who doesn't love a good Christmas carol over the holidays? Check out New York City lawyer Lawrence Savell's collection of legal-themed holiday music, including transformed holiday favorites like, "Let 'Em Sue," "All I Want for Christmas Is a Stomach Lining" and "Billin' on Christmas Eve." Savell's three-CD set is available for \$34.95 at www.lawtunes.com.

If holiday spoofs aren't your thing but legal parodies are, then you'll likely enjoy the Bar & Grill Singers' music. This group of Austin, Texas, lawyers has been lampooning the legal system for nearly two decades by rewriting popular songs with lyrics sure to delight any lawyer who's ever billed an hour or gone a round or two with a federal judge. The group has made three CDs over the years and has developed a cult following for its witty lyrics on songs like "Appointed Forever," "Mighty Law Firm in the Sky" and "Defending P.I." The CDs are available at www.a-cappella.com from \$14.97.

TOMES

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Did you hear the one about the inventor who wanted to patent a cooler installed next to the engine of his car? The story is true, but Chicago lawyer Judith Best fictionalized the patent process for all to read about and laugh over in *A Totally Legal Abecedarium*. The 64-page, satirical alphabet book uses the inventor's story along with illustrations from unrelated patent filings to explain the patent process from A to Z. The hand-bound book is a work of art that just may teach you a thing or two in the process. The limited-edition work is available for \$90 at www.larksparrowpress.com.

If you're like us, you probably don't think of law review articles as funny. But law professors Thomas Baker, Robert Jarvis and Andrew McClurg claim there's actually a lot of humor in them if you look closely. To prove their point, they've assembled *Amicus Humoriae*, a collection of what they say are some of the funniest law review articles written over the last 50 years. The pieces poke fun at everything legal, from law students to legal scholarship. Perfect for that former law review editor on your list! The anthology is \$25 and is available at www.cap-press.com.

TIME

Do you live and breathe in six-minute increments? Then flaunt your six-minute lifestyle with The Billable Hour's collection of watches and desk clocks. Made by New York lawyers Lisa and Mark Solomon, these timepieces are specially crafted for lawyers by telling time on the tenth of the hour. Wear one on your wrist or put one on your desk, and you'll never have to divide by six again! Watches and desk clocks are available in several styles and colors from \$49 at www.thebillablehour.com.

ET AL

Stand out in the courthouse metal detector line by carrying one of Los Angeles lawyer Karen Miller's unique briefcases. Inspired by her travels to Africa, South America and the southwestern United States, Miller has created a line of bags that are just large enough to tuck a file or two inside. Best of all, a percentage of all profits goes to benefit South African orphanages that care for children infected with HIV and AIDS. Folder-sized handbags in white or black cowhide are \$299 and available at www.nativechic.com.

Too many files stacking up on your desk? San Francisco lawyer David Goldenberg understands. A talented woodworker, Goldenberg designs office furniture for attorneys who like to pile things up on their desktops. Bins recessed into the back of his "Fattie" desk keep files tightly in place. Insert a customized file holder into the opening and, voila, it's the working file storage system of a lawyer's dream. See Goldenberg's entire collection at www.sensfurniture.com.

When he's not on the bench in Livingston County, N.Y., Judge Jerry Alonzo is making them. This working artist blends the law into his works in wood for an inspirational collection of handcrafted

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items. Dictionary stands are inscribed with notable legal quotes, mahogany keepsake boxes are topped with gavels, and wooden sculptures pay homage to famous legal cases. You can view an exhibition of his recent works [online](#) and e-mail him at galonzo@rochester.rr.com for pricing and ordering information.

WE COULDN'T RESIST

A few items that crossed our desks were so good that we couldn't pass them up. We admit, they weren't made by lawyers, but the law certainly inspired their creators.

At a loss for what to get that criminal defense lawyer who helped you out of that, uh, predicament? Check out A Rogues' Gallery, a series of needlepointed celebrity mugshots at the DCKT Contemporary gallery in New York City. Artist Maria Piñeres brings new life to the unforgettable police-station images of Nick Nolte, Lizzie Grubman, Robert Downey Jr. and others in her wall hangings. After all, nothing says "Merry Christmas" better than a needlepoint of Jacko in jail. Check out all of the pieces in A Rogues' Gallery at dcktcontemporary.com.

Does the Patriot Act make you want to cry? Laugh at it instead with your very own Lost Civil Liberties Mug. Pour a hot liquid into the cup, and all the rights that the act takes away disappear from the outside of the mug. The mug is available for \$12.95 at www.philosophersguild.com.

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