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FROM THE DECEMBER 15, 2006 ABA JOURNAL eReport



Fa-La-La-La Law

The second (allegedly) annual eReport holiday gift guide

By Jill Schachner Chanen

So you missed Black Friday because you decided to actually spend the rare day off with your family instead of fighting over the last PlayStation 3 at the mall. And Cyber Monday? Well, that was a bust because of all those e-mails that piled up over the long weekend.

Fear not, hardworking lawyers, we've got your backs. You may have missed your window of holiday shopping opportunity, but we didn't.

Scroll down and take a gander at our picks for the lawyers on your holiday gift list.

Fill up some bookshelves with ...

I LOVE A LAWYER

Los Angeles lawyer Shelly Freedenthal was a bit surprised when her kindergartner started hearing lawyer jokes at school. She wanted a way to present lawyers in a positive light to her children, but found nothing to help her with the task. So Freedenthal took matters into her own hands and penned *I Love a Lawyer*, a 32-page picture book that's suitable for lawyers and wannabe lawyers of all ages. Purchase your copy for \$14.99 straight from the [publisher](#) or for \$18 on [Amazon.com](#).

ATTORNEYMAN

Karen Katz may no longer be practicing law, but that doesn't mean she doesn't remember the pain of business development. Now a full-time business development consultant, the Boston-based Katz has put some of her professional knowledge into a comic book series dubbed *AttorneyMan*. Lawyers can learn business development skills through *AttorneyMan* and other comic book superhero lawyers. The first issue of *AttorneyMan* is available for \$10 at [AttorneyMan](#). Also check out the *AttorneyMan* line of holiday cards available through [The Billable Hour Card Store](#).

A TOTALLY LEGAL ABCEDARIUM

Can the patent process be funny? Chicago lawyer Judith Grubner and husband Craig Jobson think so and prove it in their tome, *A Totally Legal Abecedarium*. The humorous double-alphabet book tells the story of two inventors' quest to patent a beverage cooler installed next to a car engine. Perfect for the IP lawyer on your list! Purchase the limited edition, hand-bound book from [Lark Sparrow Press](#) for \$90.

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AMICUS HUMORIAE

Law review articles and funny are not words typically seen in the same sentence. But law professors Thomas Baker, Robert Jarvis and Andrew McClurg beg to differ. They've selected what they claim are the 25 funniest law review articles written in the last 50 years and assembled them in *Amicus Humoriae*. [Order it](#) for your favorite law review editor-in-chief for \$22.50.

Snazz up someone's desk with ...

A HANDMADE GAVEL AND STRIKE PLATE

When Bridgman, Mich., lawyer Jim Petro Jr. isn't at his desk, he can be found in his woodshop working on a variety of crafts with his father. Over the years, the pair have made grandfather clocks, bookshelves and bowls. Petro's latest project: handmade gavels and matching strike pads. Custom-order them in oak, walnut or cherry for \$100. If you have a more exotic wood in mind, just ask, and they'll try to make it for you. Don't expect these in time for Christmas, though: Each one takes four to six weeks to make. But it will surely be appreciated whenever it is delivered. [E-mail Petro](#) to order.

SLAM-A-GAVEL

Clients stressing you out? Your better half nagging you to come home? That pesky first-year associate making you nuts? Take out your aggressions with Slam-a-Gavel. This desktop toy is the perfect gift for any stressed-out lawyer on your list. Sort of like whack-a-mole, but sort of not, each set comes with, yes, a gavel and a set of nine wooden blocks with different stressors printed on each side of each block. Whether it's the senior partner, the kids or the credit card bill, you'll find a block you can take out your aggressions on. While this nifty little gift was made by a postal worker (and they know a thing or two about stress), we still think it's the sort of thing a lawyer could love. Available at [The Billable Hour Co.](#) for \$34.95.

Get organized with ...

OCTOPUS

Like most lawyers, New Yorker Jessica Hirsch often found herself running off to court in the morning while trying to juggle flimsy case files, an overstuffed purse, a laptop and the obligatory cappuccino. But after one particularly bad file day she decided to do something about it. With the help of two other lawyers, Hirsch invented Octopus, a flexible harness that will help you get a handle on all your legal files, your laptop and whatever else you are juggling—all for \$18! Being a New Yorker, Hirsch made sure that they were available in six fashionable colors, too. To put an end to your daily juggling act, check out [Octopus](#).

Get funky with ...

NATIVE CHIC

If the classic strand of pearls isn't your thing, check out the unique jewelry designs of Los Angeles lawyer Karen SueJoy Miller's Native Chic line. Inspired by her travels to Africa, Brazil and the Southwestern United States, Miller uses sterling, copper wire, shells, beads and semiprecious gems for her one-of-a-kind necklaces, pendants and rings. Buy Native Chic through [Miller's Web site](#).

Get in the mood with ...

LAWTUNES

New York City lawyer Lawrence Savell is out with his latest compilation of legal-themed holiday songs. This year's CD, *Merry Lexmas from the Lawtunes* features such sure-to-be hits as "Another Billable Christmas," "We're all Just Elves," and our personal favorite, "You Don't Wanna Cross Santa." Tune in with LawTunes this holiday season. Available for \$17.99 from [LawTunes](#).

Wear your lawyer pride with ...

SOPHISTICAT NOVELTIES

Hate lawyer jokes? Then check out Burton J. Rubin's original novelties. All bear the message: "If you think lawyer jokes are funny—next time you are in a jam, call a comedian." Rubin offers a variety of novelty items from bumper stickers to T-shirts to mouse pads for anyone who can't take a joke. Starting at \$7.99, his slogan-embossed stuff is available at [SophistiCat Novelties](#).

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