

## Chadbourne's Jingle Man

**T**HIS HOLIDAY SEASON, lawyers at New York's Chadbourne & Parke can toss out their Burl Ives Christmas collections and tune in to one of their own. Lawrence Savell, counsel at the firm, is about to make his commercial debut as a recording artist.

Savell defends companies in consumer products liability cases, and magazine publishers in libel and contracts work. For years, he has written songs as a way to express himself—and keep his sanity. This fall he'll sell his nine-song compilation of holiday tunes through local law school bookstores and on consignment at record stores.

Savell, 40, started writing songs about law school life at the University of Michigan Law. As a fourth-year Chadbourne associate, he formed a band with other lawyers, paralegals, and secretaries. The band's major date was the Chadbourne Christmas party, where the hit was "Bill Those Hours," sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells."

Though the group broke up after about three years, Savell didn't put away his sleigh bells.

He decided to write and record holiday songs about lawyers and distribute them as holiday greetings. In 1988 he sent out a vinyl record to colleagues, friends, and clients that featured "I Dreamed I Saw Santa Workin' in the Library." His Christmas list hit 500 last year.

Last year's recording—burned on to a CD rather than pressed on vinyl—includes a cleverly titled, if fairly repetitious, "It's Still a Billable Christmas." The recording is rounded out with songs like "All I Want For Christmas is a Stomach Liner," and "Ridin' on a Red-Eye with Santa on Christmas Eve."

This year's collection includes several new treats like "Let 'Em Sue," a song that will stick with trial lawyers like so much plum pudding. "Oh, the sidewalks outside are slippery/Hot chocolate can burn your lippery/But defense work is what I do/So let 'em sue, let 'em sue, let 'em sue. . . . When I finally head outside/How I hate that my revenues chill/But with my beeper and fax beside/I'm always warm and ready to bill."

Savell concedes that what



CHADBOURNE'S LAWRENCE "HOT LICKS" SAVELL

started as a hobby has become an obsession. He spent over 100 hours on production and over \$10,000 on this year's project (more than twice as much as last year). That doesn't leave much in

his budget for vacations. Instead, Savell spent his summer nights locked in his makeshift studio with the windows closed to noisy city traffic and the air-conditioning turned off. The studio

doubles as his bedroom in his Upper East Side apartment. "Staying up late in a closed room without air-conditioning, [you] have to be a little nuts," he says.

Savell plays guitar but achieves a fuller sound with the use of a synthesizer and computer. He cuts and pastes his voice into tracks, so that it often sounds like there are many Larry Savells. "The possibility for schizophrenia is tremendous," he says.

Colleagues and clients say that Savell's work does not go in vain. Mary Yelenick, a Chadbourne litigation partner, describes him as a "gentle, funny fellow who has saved my sanity on a number of occasions. He's a real mensch."

Adds client Andrew Rak, senior counsel at Fortune Brands, Inc.: "It's a nice touch that he takes time to use his creativity to make people happy."

Need to stuff an associate's stocking? Go to [www.lawrence-savell.com](http://www.lawrence-savell.com) for information on how to order. The CDs cost \$15 each and weigh less than your typical holiday fruitcake.

—LAURA PEARLMAN