



# FROM THE EDITOR

BY PETER ALLEN

**Most public figures on the national scene tend to duck when the epithet *liberal* is thrown their way. Not Ninth Circuit Judge Stephen R. Reinhardt.** He not only embraces the label but he seems to prefer you say it with a sneer. Intrigued, Los Angeles writer **Bill Blum**—who profiles Reinhardt this month (“The Last Liberal,” page 16)—set out to measure the man against his old political enemies. “I didn’t want to go to the left-liberal end of the spectrum and talk to people who would only spout platitudes about Judge Reinhardt,” Blum says. “What I discovered is that even those who don’t agree with his philosophy think of him as having the highest level of ability, commitment, and integrity.” Blum looked up former Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates, who frequently clashed with Reinhardt when Reinhardt served on the Los Angeles Police Commission. “I had to hustle to find Gates,” Blum says. “I asked around, called the LAPD, did records searches, and finally wrote the LAPD pension department and asked it to forward a letter to Gates. When he finally called me from a cell phone, it was vintage Gates: He wanted to know who the hell I was and what the hell I wanted. In the end, he told me what everyone else ended up telling me: He disagrees with Reinhardt but has a tremendous amount of respect for him. I have to admit I was also really impressed by Reinhardt, even if I disagree with some of his rulings. The Ninth Circuit judges are pretty squeamish about stating their personal opinions. But Reinhardt and a couple others—Stephen Trott and Alex Kozinski—just don’t seem to have any fear about that. In fact, Reinhardt seems to thrive on criticism and pressure. He’s like Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan, only a lot older and paler.”

Research by another contributor took a lifetime. **Lawrence E. Savell** says he’s qualified to write his Valentine’s Day law review parody (“Law Review: A Love Story,” page 26) because he has practiced law for 20 years and once wrote a law review article. He’s now of counsel for the New York firm Chadbourne & Parke. He has also found time to produce a holiday music CD, *The Lawyer’s Holiday Humor Album*, with such potential hits as, “Let ‘em Sue” and “It’s Gonna Be a Billable Christmas.”

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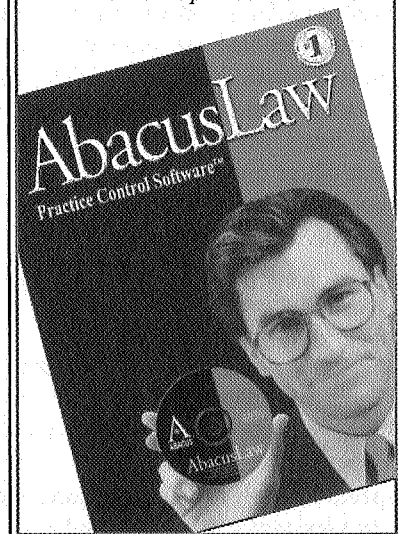
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