

Juris Rocker

Lawrence Savell '79

The guitar came first—an acoustic six-string, circa 1976, that Lawrence Savell bought with a scholarship check that was supposed to go toward his Cornell tuition. The law career that inspired his music came a few years later. Now, Savell is a lawyer by day and a musician by night. He's often up late, writing and recording original songs that satirize his job as a litigator for Chadbourne & Parke in New York City. Most of his songs are inspired by everyday tasks—sifting through piles to find the one document necessary to win a case, ordering take-out at his desk, reading legal citation manuals. "If I stopped coming to work," he says, "I'd run out of material."



Savell is still using the guitar he bought in Ithaca; his only formal training was a couple of group lessons in Willard Straight Hall. So far, he's sold more than 1,000 copies of his albums, which feature tunes that he describes as "simple" and "hummable." (They include a love song entitled "She's an Electronic Discovery" and an ode to Perry Mason's secretary, Della Street.) He makes most of his sales online, through his website (lawrencesavell.com) or amazon.com, or at his performances at law firm parties and legal conferences. But for Savell, selling albums isn't the point. He says lawyers often get a bad rap, and he wants to dispel the myth that people in his field are consumed by

their careers. Says Savell: "We're not as stuffy and as distant as we might be perceived."

— Kara Cusolito