

# The singing lawyer

by Sarah Hale, 2L  
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Newly-released Christmas music generally consists of today's pop stars re-recording the same Christmas songs that yesterday's pop stars and those before them also recorded. It was a silent night, Rudolph had a red nose - we get it. In my annual quest for original holiday music, I found quite a gem this year. Actually, it found me. Love's like that sometimes. The way in which our paths crossed doesn't necessarily matter, though; what matters is that I now have in my possession the most original compilation of Christmas music ever.

*Merry Lexmus from the Lawtunes*, composed, performed, and produced by New York litigation attorney Lawrence Savell, is an album of fifteen lawyer-themed Christmas songs. The fact that a member of the legal profession had the creativity and sense of humor to write and perform these songs is amazing, and honestly, it makes me feel just a little better about entering the profession myself.



photo courtesy of [lawtunes.com](http://lawtunes.com)

**Savell, hard at work making Christmas, and the legal profession, a little more fun**

The music is catchy enough, but the true genius of this album is in the lyrics. The first song on the album, "Another Billable Christmas" bemoans the fact that even the Christmas hour must be billed. With lines like, "While others hit ski slopes or beaches pristine lawyers say a toast with a shot of Visine" and "The other professions are asleep in their beds but, hey - here's another draft to be proofread," the song starts the album off on a high note.

The torment of the billable hour is discussed on other tracks of the album as well. "Livin' Life in Six Minutes" defines the art of billing. "This brief took me 7.4, cover letter .3 more, had a sandwich while drafting a will, well, that's a wrap for this day's bill."

Another track, "Billable Christmas Blues" is written from the vantage point of a young associate at a large firm and corroborates what all of us secretly fear when we imagine what life will be like after graduation: "It's really the same as I look up from my shredder, except that I'm dressing just a little bit better." The song also touches on the little lies we tell ourselves to get through the sacrifice: "What's Christmas but another cold winter's day? I don't believe that either, but what else can I say?" This line couldn't hit closer to home for law students. You didn't want to go home for Thanksgiving; your family annoys you anyway, right? You won't mind skipping spring break for the moot court competition; you

never really liked beaches and bikinis, did you? That's what I thought.

Another particularly poignant song on the album is nearly philosophical in its simple reality. "We're All Just Elves" draws comparisons between Santa's elves and a law firm's associates - both, the song notes, "facing a deadline that can't be changed." Listen to this song once and you'll hear it in your head every time you work on a Bluebooking assignment, because in the end it's true. Whether it's Santa or big firm partners or Journal EICs, we're all just someone else's elves. Maybe it's the philosophy minor in me, but in the shallow end, that's pretty deep.

Savell's litigation roots come through most vividly in "You Don't Wanna Cross Santa." When an alleged slip and fall on a rooftop puts Dancer "on the DL," the homeowner's defense attorney finds himself in the unenviable position of cross examining the big rosy-cheeked guy himself. What was the verdict? The jury was "hung like some mistletoe."

Another track, "Down the Halls of Nussbaum, Hanley," is a remake of the old classic, "Deck the Halls," and as such is not completely original, but nonetheless quite novel and thoroughly enjoyable. The song peeks into the offices of associates at Nussbaum, Hanley as the end of the billing year approaches. "Down the halls of Nussbaum, Hanley, everyone's billing around the clock / Shepardizing everything in sight, except for the menus from House of Wok." By song's end the billing year has ended and the associates have awoken on the first day of a new year, where they are greeted by the realization that it's "time to start on the next 365."

*Merry Lexmus* also includes a remake of "The 12 Days of Christmas." In Savell's version, though, the gifts are not bestowed by a true love. When would a lawyer have time to find true love, after all? The gifts in this version are given by the lawyer's firm and include: mugs of Malox, cups of coffee, partners pacing, calling clients and a room full of documents to read.

*Merry Lexmus* is the third Christmas album released by the Lawtunes, and while I must admit I haven't heard the full versions of the other two, with song titles including "North Pole Bar Exam" and "Let 'em Sue" (to the tune of "Let it Snow"), I can't imagine they are anything less than fabulous. According to a press statement accompanying the release of the latest album, for Savell the production of this music is about lawyers maintaining a sense of humor and a willingness to laugh at themselves occasionally; it's about showing that lawyers, "are not necessarily humorless, boring, or incapable of self-deprecation." If these were Savell's goals in making *Merry Lexmus*, he has clearly succeeded and made some pretty fun Christmas music along the way.

Visit [lawtunes.com](http://lawtunes.com) to learn more about the Lawtunes and Lawrence Savell, or to listen to clips and order albums.