

VOIR DIRE

Legal lyricist strikes again

WHO BUT A LITIGATOR would write a holiday song lyric rhyming "Christmas Day" with "ex parte"?

The perpetrator of that gem is Lawrence Savell, the singer/songwriter behind "You Don't Wanna Cross Santa," which surely will become a Yule classic. That's cross as in cross-examine. Seems the old elf is not so jolly when a rooftop mishap leads to litigation and you grill him too aggressively. "An examination giving him the third degree gives you a lump of coal beneath your Christmas tree," Savell learns.

The tune appears on a three-disc CD collection that the Chadbourne & Parke attorney is pitching on his Web site, www.lawtunes.com. Other titles include the cheeky "Rainmaker Reindeer" and the somber "Billing on Christmas Eve."

According to his Web site, Savell got his start in show business in the Univer-

sity of Michigan Law School's "Law Revue" and has been self-recording for several years. He says it's all in good fun and to humanize the profession.

"I'm never going to win a Grammy," he said in an interview. "If it makes lawyers feel better about the hours they put in, and other people feel better about lawyers, then I feel I will have achieved my objective."

Surely worthy goals. But he plans to keep his day job.

—FROM STAFF REPORTS