

In Flux

UNCOMMON LAW

Clients Get Something Different in Stockings This Year

THOSE WHO KNOW **Larry Savell** expect something different in their mailboxes this time of year.

Instead of greeting cards, Mr. Savell, an attorney at New York's Chadbourne & Parke L.L.P., sent a compact disc of his own original holiday tunes with a legal twist. His lulling melodies contain some dark humor.

The first track, "All I Want For Christmas is a Stomach Lining," asks Santa to "Pass the Mylanta."

"It's Still a Billable Christmas," mourns the joy of holidays past: "...now

we work in high-rise salt mines/Meeting nightmarish year-end deadlines."

In "I Dreamed I Saw Santa Workin' in the Library," Mr. Savell asks Santa about his standing and learns he's in trouble because "one Thursday you left at six."

For that sin, "I gave your bonus to a counsel down at Skadden Arps," the old elf says. But Mr. Savell is no Scrooge.

He shelled out \$3,000 to send his holiday greetings to about 500 family members, friends, co-workers and "people I meet on airplanes," he says.

He said the CDs are a way to express

thanks and show that lawyers can laugh at themselves.

Partners at his law firm apparently like the annual missive. But, he admitted, it won't propel him to legal stardom.

"Doing the things I do at Christmas is not a sure way to guarantee career success," he said. "A totally rational person would not necessarily send something out like this."

That hasn't stopped Mr. Savell, who started sending out his unusual greetings in 1988 with a vinyl record. Other years he's sent videos and computer disks.

In 1989, he made a cassette called "Born to Pun" that used rock superstar **Bruce Springsteen's** 1975 "Born to Run" album cover. He superimposed pictures of himself and Santa over photos of Mr. Springsteen and saxophonist **Clarence Clemons**.

A Springsteen fan, Mr. Savell said his parody was fair use, not copyright infringement.

But, he said, "I would gladly serve time in prison to have him recognize something I had done."

—JACKIE MAJERUS