



## ESSAY

# A Lawyer's Pre-Season Shopping Guide

BY LAWRENCE SAVELL

**I**T'S TIME TO START thinking about Christmas gifts. I decided to get a head start on my annual foray into bankruptcy practice by attending the recent "Chatchka Expo" held in New York. To my delight, a small portion of the exhibition was devoted to high-tech innovations specifically designed with the high-powered lawyer of the 1990s in mind. Among the most noteworthy items were the following:

**"FaxMan"**: Recognizing yet another new market, the Japanese have pioneered the world's first hand-held, battery-operated facsimile machine. The device can handle documents of any length, although the maximum width is limited to three inches, making it ideal for the transmission of ticker tape, supermarket receipts or the contents of fortune cookies. A set of lightweight headphones are included, allowing one to hear a digital simulation of the sounds of a full-sized fax machine.

**"FiloFlex"**: As law firms expand, so do lawyers. Capitalizing on this problem, an unusual joint venture between a personal diary publisher and a fitness center has resulted in the creation of a complete free weight assortment housed inside a handsome leatherette binder. The compact 90-pound package is endorsed by the fitness committees of several major bar associations.

**"Moon-liter"**: Recognizing the frustration lawyers experience at the movies from the downtime such activities inherently present, researchers have come up with a marking pen that makes selected text glow in the dark for reading while the film is showing.

**"Pocket Parts"**: Lawyers on the move are no longer limited to Big Macs and hot dogs. Attorneys can now carry wallet-sized packets containing pre-cooked chicken portions ready for snacking on the road. Those looking to increase their fiber consumption may want to

add one of Au Bon Pain's new "Litigation Baguettes," high-capacity, rectangular-shaped rolls available in either black or maroon.

**"Barnett's Familiar Citations"**: Is your latest brief a little light on persuasive authority? Would the citation of a case or two help? Fortunately, hours of painstaking legal research can now be avoided by consulting this newest addition to every lawyer's bookshelf. Thousands of amorphous quotations from leading cases you recall hearing about are included, complete with the appropriate pinpoint page cites. Editor Murray Barnett, who also authored the seminal *Stream of Consciousness in Oral Argument*, recommends that citations lifted from the book be preceded by the signal "see for no apparent reason."

**"Mister Caffeine"**: Looking forward to yet another "all-niter" searching for annotations to Bolivian admiralty statutes? Staying up is no problem with "Mister Caffeine," a revolutionary device which effectively removes the flavor, color, and other unnecessary components from ordinary coffee, leaving only the desired stimulant behind.

Honorable mentions go to several other products, including a Martindale-Hubbell Telescope, a portable condensed version of the multi-volume epic, providing somewhat fuzzy descriptions of luminaries in far-off jurisdictions; the Prison Cellular Phone, allowing criminal defense attorneys greater contact with their clients; and Cuisindoc, a combination gourmet food processor and document shredder.

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