

The Update

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San Diego Defense Lawyers

Edifications

"Lawyers in Love" and Other Songs About Lawyers

by Lori J. Guthrie, Esq., Editor

As lawyers, we are always the butt of many jokes, usually being compared to scum sucking bottom feeders and the like. One of the titles to a song on a CD I recently purchased (okay, it was last year) was "Our Lawyers Made Us Change The Name Of This Song So We Wouldn't Get Sued." (In case you are wondering, the band is Fall Out Boy). According to various postings on various websites, the song was originally going to be "My Name is David Ruffin And These Are The Temptations" which refers to how Mr. Ruffin had attempted to change the name of the band to "David Ruffin and The Temptations." According to www.songfacts.com the song is about the "trappings of fame" and it was feared that a lawsuit may be filed by the Ruffin estate if the song had kept its original title.

Anyway, I got to wondering how many songs were out there with "lawyer" in the title. I did a Google search and only a few kept coming up over and over (because, of course, I don't have that much free time on my hands to review 1.1 million potential hits). They are:

California Sex Lawyers, by Fountains of Wayne (2005)- allegedly titled after a "California Lawyer magazine the band saw on the table in the lobby of their attorney's office

Lovers Need Lawyers, by The Good Life (2004)- about divorce

Lawyers In Love, by Jackson Browne (1978)- about political apathy

Lawyers, Guns and Money, by Warren Zevon (1978) (covered by Hank Williams, Jr. in 1985 and by The Wallflowers in October 2004)- about being on the run

The Philadelphia Lawyer, by Woody Guthrie (no relation) (1937)- about a lawyer's affair with a married woman

None of these songs really had anything nice to say about practicing law, but it does provide some insight into the perception of attorneys from outside the profession.

I also found another website that had Christmas Music CD with song titles such as "Another Billable Christmas" and "Living Life in Six Minutes" by Lawrence Savell. The album is titled "Merry Lexmas from the Lawtunes." Check out this and additional albums by the Lawtunes at www.lawtunes.com.

There are many, many songs that refer to lawyers or legal proceedings in their lyrics, but too many to write about here. If you have a favorite song about lawyers, email me at lguthrie@gracehollis.com and let me know which song and why. We will publish selected responses in next edition of The Update.