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With all due respect?: Holidaze! Celebrate!

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What a wonderful thing the Internet is. No sooner had the online version of the September *LIJ* (containing this very column) hit the ether with news of US attorney Lawrence Savell's law-themed jingles we received an email from the musical maestro himself.

Mr Savell sang our praises for spotting such a talent (as his). Duly flattered, *WADR* responded. Correspondence ensued with the result that we bring to you the followup to *The Lawyer's Holiday Humour Album*.

Yes, it's time to take to *Legal Holidaze*, produced aptly enough by Jest Publishing Co and featuring 10 comical compositions including "Rainmaker Reindeer", "Surfin' for an Expert Late on Christmas Eve", "Bill Those Hours" (a parody of "Jingle Bells"), and of course, "Legal Holidaze".

The legalese on the CD cover dutifully notes copyright and that "All Rights Reserved, Even If I Am Not. Dedicated to those who recognise that poking a little fun at ourselves helps keep everything in perspective".

It turns out Mr Savell's humorous streak is not confined to music. He also has a website, <http://www.LawHumor.com>, where he says you can find "lawyer computer games, a love story in the form of a law review article, a law-related comic book, and even a free and always-immediately-responsive computerised legal advice generator".

Coincidentally, the website is reviewed in this edition of the *LIJ* in "Insites" (page 81) where it gets the thumbs up. The reviewer says they "got stuck playing LawHumour Hangman ...[where] if you don't get the word out after several tries, a Donald Trump-like message flashes up stating, "You're fired. Send Resume".

Effervescent with an early dose of festive spirit, *WADR* is giving away a copy of *Legal Holidaze*. It's nearly Christmas, which means everyone's too busy to do much more than struggle to meet budget, so to win this stunning CD, simply be the first to email *WADR* with "Holidaze! Celebrate! (with apologies to Madonna)" in the Subject line and it's yours.

Otherwise, those interested in hearing fragments of the songs or buying the CD can go to <http://www.lawtunes.com>.

It seems Christmas cheer comes early in Hong Kong where, in a performance not everyone found funny, a local prosecutor has been panned for courtroom antics including putting on sunglasses, giggling, clapping and drumming his fingers on his desk.

This was the alleged behaviour of Attorney Roderick Murray during a 9 August hearing which forced a judge to halt a sentencing, according to The Associated Press.

Murray later acknowledged to reporters that he had consumed two dry martinis and an unspecified number of beers before going to court. Hong Kong's top prosecutor, Grenville Cross, issued an apology to Judge Chua Fi-lan, and Murray was barred from prosecuting any cases in Hong Kong.

In another courtroom drama, Brooklyn Criminal Court Judge Richard N Allman found himself in hot water over a physical altercation with an attorney while presiding over a misdemeanour traffic violation.

Judge Allman got into verbal sparring with Legal Aid Society attorney Stephen B Terry during the case in June, according to the *New York Law Journal*.

Terry asked the judge to speak to him, not his client, and Judge Allman told Terry to stop interfering with his questioning.

The argument became more heated, with Judge Allman raising his voice and saying, according to a transcript: "Did you go to law school, Terry? Did you go to law school, yes or no?".

Moments later the judge, a veteran of volatile domestic violence matters who is known for placing defendants in anger-management programs, stepped down from the Bench, walked over to Terry, put his hands on the attorney and began yelling at him. Just as quickly, he stopped and returned to the Bench.

The administrator and staff on the Commission on Judicial Conduct, who investigate and prosecute judicial disciplinary matters, were refusing to recommend a punishment less than dismissal, according to sources of the *NYLJ*. The judge's attorney, Michael S Ross, was trying to negotiate a lesser sanction — such as a public censure.

Allman's five-year career on the Bench was otherwise unblemished, and numerous attorneys from both the defence and prosecution bars had agreed to vouch for his character in hope of helping his cause.

From naughty to nice: A senior lawyer has been left wondering whether his Mr Nice Guy approach is doing him a disservice.

In a plea for help to an advice column in the *New York Law Journal*, he posed the dilemma: Can a Lawyer Be Too Nice?

"I am a male senior associate, and I feel that I am too nice. Specifically, I feel I get taken advantage of because I'm not a screamer/demander type . . ."

He goes on: "What I notice is that other people, who act like incredible jerks, get prompter and more attentive work done by lawyers and support staff. I want to remain a decent person but am feeling resentful about this state of affairs".

As well as giving practical advice on how to get results with a more palatable approach than the "screamer type", Holly English, a former lawyer and principal consultant at Values at Work, offered this reassuring gem: "You need not abandon being a nice person merely because you are a lawyer".

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