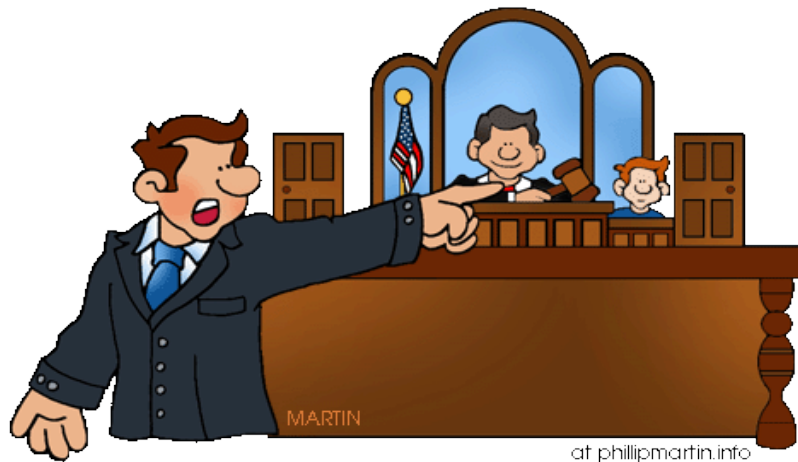


*Lamplighter Books of Colorado*

# **Lawyers, Laws, Justice and Judges**



**By Roger Himes, J.D., Lawyer**

I usually write more serious things:  
Spiritual: [GospelPowerOfGod.com](http://GospelPowerOfGod.com)  
Legal: [1MinuteForTheAmericanConstitution.com](http://1MinuteForTheAmericanConstitution.com)

But this is a joke book  
gathered from 25 years in the practice of law.

**An introduction to:**

# **Lawyers, Laws, Justice and Judges**

## **A Brief Opening Statement**

(Don't all lawyers make opening statements?)

**If you don't think the law is a laughing matter, think again.**

**A U. S. Supreme Court justice recently said:**

**"We now have over 10,000,000 laws --  
to enforce the 10 commandments."**

**And who writes our laws... and who wrote our Constitution? LAWYERS!!!**



**While our U. S. Constitution is not a laughing matter, the lawyers involved in it, and the laws that evolved from it (and the judges that interpret them) can be very serious laughing matters.**

**Sometimes you just have to laugh to keep from crying!!!**

**And what I've discovered is that most people LIKE jokes about law, justice, lawyers and judges. Being a lawyer, I've collected some of these for years.**

## **Personally Speaking . . . A short introduction (introducing myself)**

**For 25 years I was what John Grisham might call ‘a street lawyer.’ I began my practice of law at a time when the law was still relatively easy (this lasted until sometime around 1986, when everything became complicated beyond anyone’s imagination).**

**I built my law practice in a unique way:  
singing in nightclubs at night (and passing  
out business cards at the breaks). Let me ask you:  
what better place to meet  
people who need an attorney?**

**No, this is not a picture of me.**

**But here is me with my guitar.**



**The Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News thought a lawyer performing in bars was newsworthy. They did articles about me: “The Singing Attorney,” and “The Court Jester.” These were positive, human interest articles giving me fantastic free publicity. When they asked if they could do a story about me, I imagined myself laughing all the way to the bank.**

**I mostly sang downtown, close to the courthouse, so a lot of my audience consisted of other lawyers and judges, as well as FBI agents and other federal employees. I also had both the staffs of the Denver, Colorado District Attorneys office and the Public Defender’s Office show up to listen to me sing.**



**I was offered a couple of jobs with firms that I didn't take, mostly because they wanted to pay a low wage and work me 60 hours a week. I just wanted to go into the solo practice of law.**

**I knew I could do better on my own... and I did.**

**Also, I also performed with John Denver in his 'B.C.' days (before he was a celebrity). This was when I was in college in Texas, before moving to Colorado.**

**John was an amazing guy. He became a model for me my entire life. He was always so upbeat, and positive and responsive and approachable. He made everyone he met feel like the most important person in the world to him. The first time I met him he made me feel like he had waiting for weeks -- just to meet me. He was a very warm, likeable guy.**



**I copied John's style and music. That's why I say he was a model for me. Like most other singers of the time I sang negative, protest, war songs, and songs about death, mine disasters, and the like.**

**John was like a breath of fresh air. He sang about mountains, animals, rivers, oceans, prairies, people, -- and about love.**

**I watched the audience warm to him, and realized I wanted to be like him.**

Thus, the newspapers called me a singer with “a John Denver delivery.”



## **I Made A Total Change**

In 1999, after getting burned out in law after being in court almost everyday for 25 years, a very early retirement,

I became a western U.S. coach tour guide for a popular international tour company named Globus.



I did this for 8 summers, until 2006.

My territory was from South Dakota to California and Montana to Arizona.

My driver and I took 40-50 happy people on trips that lasted between 8 and 14 days. We showed them all the ‘God made’ and ‘man made’ wonders the west had to offer. Several people said they had never seen things the way I often described.

Today I have a few sites on the internet as “The Gospel Life Coach,” and my family owns and operates a wedding business in the mountains of Colorado, just

a short drive west of Denver: **EvergreenRedBarn.com**



Check us out if you're considering a Colorado wedding!

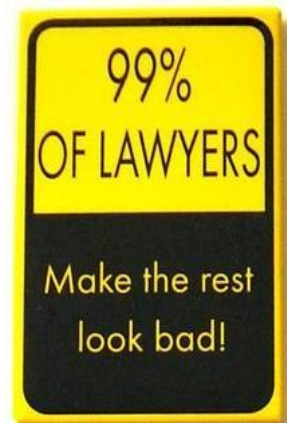
<http://www.GospelPowerOfGod.com>  
<http://www.Twitter.com/TheGospelCoach>  
<https://www.Facebook.com/RogerHimesCoach>  
<http://www.Pinterest.com/RogerHimesCoach>

## **Now, Let's Get Down to the Serious Business of Humor**

Despite what is thought, 'J.D.' after my name means *juris doctor*, and not *juvenile delinquent*. It is true that most of us lawyers *are educated beyond our intellects*, — does not necessarily mean we're smart. In fact, some of us might behave somewhat like we are *juvenile delinquents* in some way or other,... in the way that we try to get our way in everything, whether we are right or wrong.

Most lawyers want the public to look at us reverently. But in reality, most tend to look at us irreverently.

You know who lawyers are: they are people who will spend your last cent to prove they're right.



**And then they're wrong half the time!**

**Someone asked, "What's wrong with lawyer jokes?"  
The answer came: Lawyers don't think they are funny.  
Other people think the jokes are serious, and not jokes.**

**How can you tell when a lawyer is lying?  
— Answer: when his mouth is moving.**

**What do you have if three lawyers are buried up to their necks in sand?  
— Answer: not enough sand.**

**If you have a bad lawyer, why not get a new one?  
— Answer: changing lawyers is like moving to a new deck on the Titanic.**

**What do you call a retired lawyer?  
— Answer: Your Honor.**

**What do you call a lawyer who has gone bad?  
— Answer: Senator.**

**In Hamlet, Shakespeare says,  
"The first order of business is to kill all the lawyers."**

**God forbid!  
Pogo, our cartoon philosopher friend gave an alternative: "Let's just shorten their legal pads." This sounds  
a lot better to me, doesn't it to you?**



**My purpose in this writing is to give you greater fondness for lawyers.  
Or maybe, perhaps just tolerance?**

**Remember that lawyers are people too.  
Well, at least most of them,... and at least most of the time.**

**“Lawyers are called 'legal eagles' (or is that beagles?)  
We lawyers are the legal eagles of society.  
We are the custodians of liberty.  
We are the protectors of the people.  
We are the stalwarts of justice.  
We are the upholders of the Constitution.”**

**And if you really believe this,  
then I also have some oceanfront property  
right here in Colorado to sell you too.**

**I feed myself on this type of stuff because it's hard for most of us lawyers to stay motivated. This is because we're always suing someone. We are known as the most enthusiastically negative people in the world. But it's not without cause.**

**In defense of lawyers (most of whom need a lot of defense), do you have any idea how difficult it is to stay motivated or 'up' when you have to face one negative person or situation after another all day?**

**Law offices are negative places because they consist of lawyers.**

**Lawyers' secretaries... are often down in the dumps because of their bosses. How would you feel if you were a legal secretary and you were ready to leave work for the day. You pop your head into your bosses' office saying, “Hey, boss, have a nice day!” He snarls back: “Don't tell me what to do!”**

**This is how it is in many law offices.**





## **Lawyers Are Always Fighting Someone**

Lawyers seem to have to fight with everyone — even judges, some of whom think they're God, and often act like God in their courtroom.

They always fight with other lawyers too.

They have to fight with their clients to collect their fees — especially if they lose!

What a life.

This is why lawyers often collect fees up front. It is said: practicing law is lot like prostitution. In both cases, the value of services rendered **GREATLY DECLINES** once those services have been performed.



And then, after tough days at the office, then lawyers spend their nights worried about the next day's battles.

And you thought being a lawyer was just a lot of fun and games, right?



We lawyers are also accused of sending people mixed messages!

It's just that the law is so complicated today. It is not easy like when I started. I just stayed away from certain things like water law, tax, oil and gas, etc. But most things weren't difficult. Today they sure are.

**Plus, we lawyers are trained to help make things more complicated. After all, you can charge more money if things aren't easy.**

**This reminds me of the client who was listening to his lawyer say: "I don't believe I've succeeded in answering all of your questions. Indeed, I feel as though I have not answered any of them totally. The answers I've found only serve to raise a new set of questions, which only lead to more problems. And some of these we weren't even aware were problems when you came in.**



**To sum up, in some ways I feel as though we are as confused as ever. But I feel we are confused on a higher level, and about more important things."**

**Perhaps this is where some lawyer jokes are born, like the rhetorical question about the lawyer and the skunk: "How do you tell the difference between a dead lawyer and a dead skunk in the road?"**

**The answer is there are skid marks in front of the skunk.**

**A client of mine called and he was laughing hysterically. He said, "What do you call 500 lawyers with leg-weights on at the bottom of the ocean?" I told him I didn't know. He replied, "A start."**



**And to think I even won his case for him too.**

## **Lawyers Instead of White Rats?**

I read where they are going to start using lawyers, instead of white rats, for certain biological experiments.

They claim there are three reasons for this.

**FIRST**, there are more of us.

**SECOND**, it is said folks aren't as attached to us.

**THIRD**, the article claimed there are even some things white rats won't do.



Newspapers don't say nice things about us lawyers. They always seem to run negative articles:

**"DIVORCE LAWYERS:  
A Glimpse  
Under the Rock."**

**"LAWYERS:  
Protectors of the  
People?  
or Parasites?"**



With articles like this, how do they expect us lawyers to stay ahead of the game?

(What lawyers call a game, some people call a racket).

They even talk about lawyers in songs. I remember a popular song by Jackson Brown from the 70s: "The Mating Cry of Lawyers in Love." The first time that I heard it I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I even called the station to make sure what I was hearing was correct.

It was!!!

But then, at least country music talks about everything with songs like: "The Shades of Night Were Falling Fast, but I Got A Pretty Good Look Anyhow."

**Another song says:  
“I Called You Up to Tell You  
I Don’t Know What To Say.”**

**And yet another:  
“Get Your Tongue Out of My Mouth  
I’m Kissing You Goodbye.”**

**Yes, I did become a lawyer, and I hope you won’t hold this against me. I’m just a product of legal brainwashing and conditioning.**

**I actually wanted to go to psychology. After my undergraduate work in college in both business and psychology, I wanted to go to psychology graduate school. But I was in Texas, and the only two schools up in the far north that I was accepted at were in places that were really cold.**

**I’d heard about all the money psychologists make on Monday mornings — from folks who watched football games on the weekend. It was claimed that every time the teams went into a huddle, thousands of people thought they were talking about them.**

**Then I also heard that psychologists have plenty to do just trying to cure each others’ neurosis and phobias and sociopathic conditions.**

**So I wound up going to law school instead.**

## **Psychology vs. Psychiatry?**

**I used to wonder what the difference was between a psychiatrist and a psychologist. Then as a lawyer I discovered this difference: a psychiatrist drives you crazy, and the psychologist tests you to find out how far.**

**Also, because I’m a spiritual person, and ‘The Gospel Life Coach,’ I also thought I wanted to be a pastor. I even tried it for a spell, and was the pastor of a Vineyard Christian Fellowship for a couple of years, even while I was working as a lawyer full time. I discovered it wasn’t for me.**

Someone observed that lawyers and the clergy are very much the same:

**“It is uncertain whether the doctors of LAW,  
or the doctors of DIVINITY,  
have made the greatest strides  
in the lucrative business of MYSTERY.”**

Lawyers have long been accused of being the only people in the world who can turn black and white into grey.

But I’ll have you know that painters can do the exact same thing.

I overheard someone saying he didn’t mind lawyers all that much. But he added he just didn’t want any moving into his neighborhood.

He said he didn’t want his kids going to school with a lawyer’s kids.

I began discovering I didn’t have many lawyer friends. In fact, at one time I only had two lawyer friends.

— One was a criminal lawyer and he was in jail.

— The other was in the hospital.

He’d been backed over by an ambulance.



I took some vocational guidance tests!

One day something happened to make me

realize why I didn’t really enjoy being a lawyer much, after the law got real complicated, and why I didn’t fit the mold of lawyers.

I represented a man who was in a vocational guidance firm, and he offered to give me a set of tests for free.

The word 'free' always gets a lawyer's attention.

Anyway, he gave me the tests and came back exclaiming, "Himes, how in the world did you ever become a lawyer? You don't have any personality characteristics of a lawyer."

He explained that this means having a dominant hostile personality. The picture he painted of this is a person was one of...

having his eyes closed, . . . his legs crossed, his arms swinging, . . . and his mouth open.

It's not a very pretty picture, I realize.



## **Reason vs. Logic**

Some people become confused with the difference between legal reasoning and logic. The fact is we lawyers are not trained in logic. Think about it! Have you ever met a logical lawyer?

It's often an insult to lawyers to consider them logical. We lawyers are instead trained in legal reasoning, which has no similarity to logic. For instance, lawyers often think: "Maybe I can get \$5,000 if I sue for \$5,000,000." That's legal reasoning.

Also, we are taught that for every 50 words there should be at least one loophole. And of course two escape clauses (all of which we can charge higher fees for).

Here's an example of legal reasoning . . .

A defense lawyer was defending his client charged with murder. It was a very serious case, and the prosecutor had just finished making his opening statement to the jury, accusing the defendant of murdering his wife, and cutting up her body to dispose of it.

**The defense lawyer, after listening to the prosecutor's statement said:**

**“Ladies and Gentlemen:  
you just heard the prosecutor's opening statement.  
He has painted a picture of my client that is terrible.  
He has accused him of murdering his wife,  
and cutting her body up into pieces  
and putting them into suitcases.**

**He claims my client was in the process of transporting  
her remains over the border into Mexico,  
to dispose of them, when he was apprehended  
by an alert border guard who happened to see  
one of the deceased's fingers sticking out of one of the suitcases.**

**“The prosecutor claims that my client is a deranged man;  
that he is unfit to live.  
He claims that he is on the level of a Charles Manson,  
and he wants my client executed.**

**I don't happen to see him this way.  
But I will admit he may be a sloppy packer.”**

**This is an example of reasoning —  
lawyer style. But it's a far cry from logic,  
wouldn't you agree?**



**Law school has a way of bending the mind, and enlarging thoughts and  
capitalizing on events like nothing else I've ever seen.**

**It has a way of 'creating options' — even in situations where there are  
no options.**

## **Giving An Enema to A Dead Man**

It is said that legal reasoning is like 'giving an enema to a dead man.' I'm sure you wonder what this means. Well, there was this stage play in New York City and one of the leading men dropped over dead on the stage right in the middle of the play. It was pretty traumatic, People were very upset.

From the balcony, a lady started shouting:

**"Give him an enema!  
Give him an enema!"**

People on stage were trying to help the man, and tried to ignore her, but she kept shouting:  
**"Give him an enema!"**



Exasperated, a man called back:

**"Lady, an enema won't do any good. The man is already dead."**

The lady shouted back, **"Well, it sure won't hurt!"**

This is the legal reasoning we're taught: stretch the imagination — create options — expand thinking.

**"If it won't hurt, try it!" —**

**"Be willing to spend your client's last cent to prove you're right."**

Of course, knowing very well you may be wrong.

## **Lawyers, the IRS, Economics**

We lawyers are not taught economics in law school.

One thing we are not taught in law school is economics. We're ignorant of economics. We are only taught one economic theory only:

**The redistribution of wealth  
by means of litigation.**



**But we are taught to be the orators of society.**

**And some lawyers are really good at this. I mean really good.  
I was pretty good, and I prided myself at winning most of my cases.  
But some lawyers just put me to shame.**

**I admired the way some lawyers operated in the courtroom, twisting and bending things beyond all possible recognition.**

**Some lawyers are so good at what they can pull off in the courtroom.**

**They can work magic. They can make it appear that:**

**Any relationship between what actually did happen  
outside of the courtroom,  
and what was testified to and presented inside the courtroom —  
was purely coincidental.**

## **Witness the Following Case:**

**A Minnesota Swede (a farmer) was walking his cow Bessie along the road by a rope.**

**Suddenly, out of nowhere, a truck came speeding around the corner and knocked the farmer and Bessie off the road into a ditch.**



**Like any red-blooded American with any backbone at all,  
the farmer sued the trucking company.**

**The case went to court, and the defense attorney for the trucking  
company had the plaintiff-farmer on the witness stand.**

**He was cross examining him, and the lawyer said:**

**“Sir, is it not true that, on the day of the accident, after you were allegedly, and inadvertently knocked into the ditch, that the truck driver got out of his truck, and came back to where you were. He then asked, ‘Are you hurt?’ — to which you emphatically said, ‘No, I am not hurt.’ Now please answer the question with a simple yes or no reply only.”**

**The farmer replied, ‘Well, it was like this, I was waling Bessie along the road with a rope, when suddenly, swoooosh around the corner this truck came speeding. He knock Bessie and me off...’**

**The defense lawyer, slow on his feet, jumped up and said, “I object! I asked for a simple yes or no answer, not a dialogue.”**

**The judge sustained the defense lawyer’s objection, and told the farmer to answer with a yes or no only. Then he asked the lawyer to restate the question, which he did, but again the farmer began a long answer.**

**Again the defense lawyer objected, and again the judge sustained the objection.**

**But when it happened yet again, the third time, the judge relented and just said to let the farmer complete what he wanted to say.**

**The farmer said, “Your honor, a simple yes or no answer is just not that easy. I’m trying to tole you the truth, but every time I do, this lawyer he objects. You see, I was walking Bessie along the road with a rope when all of of sudden swoooosh, around the corner come this truck speeding. “He knock Bessie and me off the road into a ditch. The truck driver he get out and come back and look down at Bessie and see that she is a goner for sure. So, he pull out his gun and he shot Bessie!!!**

**“Then he come back to me, his gun still smoking,  
and say, “Are YOU hurt?”**

**This is a good example of the nature of some things as they occur — first outside, and then inside the courtroom. You’re never quite sure how much you hear in the courtroom is fact, and how much is fantasy or fiction.**

I once had a judge take myself, and opposing counsel back into his chambers for a recess. He said, “The biggest problem I’m having in this case is deciding which one of your clients is lying the most.”



This is why our so-called justice system is called a legal system of red tape. Sometimes any relationship between reality, testimony and legal reasoning have absolutely nothing in common.

**No poet, and no artist  
ever interpreted nature  
as freely as a lawyer does truth!**

Again, we lawyers love problems. We know the bigger the problem the more it’s worth, and the more money we can charge. So we tend to make everything as big and as complicated as possible.

## Preparing a ‘Last Will and Testament’



We lawyers are a complicated bunch. A lawyer wrote a *Last Will and Testament* that I was hired to have probated at a formal hearing because there

was a contest to the will. The will had been drafted by a lawyer some 20 years earlier. I had read one clause in the will over and over again, and I had NO idea what it was saying.

When I got to the courtroom, I knew I was going to be quizzed about this particular passage, and sure enough, the judge asked for my interpretation of what this clause was saying.

I told him I'd read it 10 times and still didn't understand what it was saying. He laughed: "Well, I've read it more times than that and I still don't know what it is saying either."

Many lawyers, like myself, try to write in a way that can be comprehended, but many don't. Many think there must be at least 100 words before the first period.

They don't know what the word 'brief' means, which is meant to describe a legal document. Most lawyers write a 10,000 word document and call it a 'brief.' At 300 words to the page, that's over 33 pages. That ain't brief. (By the way, 'ain't' is now in a lot of dictionaries).

## **A Lawyer Master of Ceremonies**

Also, things that lawyers say aren't always accurate either. They often invent so many stories that they don't know what is truth and what is fiction. A case in point was the lawyer who was serving as master of ceremonies at a banquet.

He was introducing the speaker and said, "Our speaker made a million dollars in the oil business right here in Colorado."



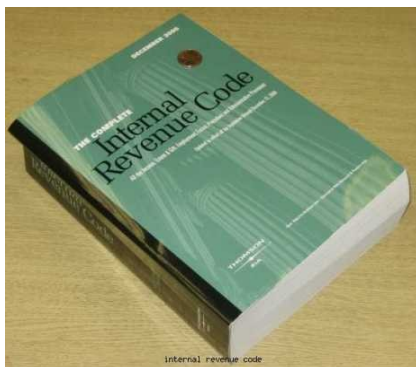
The speaker got up and his first words were:

**“Thanks for that fine introduction, but it wasn’t entirely accurate.**

- It wasn’t the oil business, but the coal business.**
- It wasn’t here in Colorado, but in North Dakota.**
- It wasn’t a million dollars but \$250,000.**
- It wasn’t me, it was my son.**
- And he didn’t make it, he lost it.”**

## **Lawyers, the IRS, Economics: The INFERNAL Revenue Code**

A prime example of the complexity of lawyers is The Infernal Revenue Code. Oh excuse me: The Internal Revenue Code. It must have been a Freudian slip. But experts say the average person can only comprehend a maximum of about 40 words in a sentence before the mind just goes on ‘overboard,’ and clicks off, and tunes out.



The average length of a sentence in the Internal Revenue Code is 100 words.

- One sentence contains 379 words.**
- And another has 385 words.**
- The longest sentence in the Code contains 506 words.**

Someone has said,  
**“The Code should be held unconstitutional  
simply because it is so incomprehensible.”**

Of course, as you might expect, it was lawyers who wrote most of the Code. Lawyers don't have to be verbose in order to confuse people.

But verbosity sure does help.

I love quoting the following section of the Infernal Revenue Code:

⇒ *“For the purposes of Paragraph 3, an organization described in Paragraph 2 shall be deemed to be an organization described in Section 501(c), 4, 5 or 6, which would be described in Paragraph 2 if it were an organization described in 501(c)(3).”* ⇐

You need more than a legal degree from Harvard to even begin to understand clauses like this in the Code.

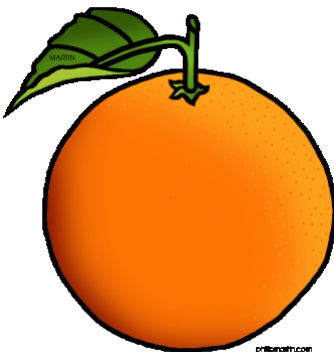
This may be the best — or the worst example of legal jargon.

## **Giving Someone An Orange**

Here's another example . . .

If you want to give someone something, you would just give it to them right? For instance, let's say you want to give someone an orange.

Yes, just a simple orange. You would simply hand it to them and say, “Here, I give you this orange.”



This is not true with lawyers. We are taught to leave absolutely nothing to chance. So we would say something like the following:

*“I hereby give, grant, bargain, sell, convey and quitclaim all my right, title and interest in and concerning this chattel, otherwise known as an orange.”*

*Together with all the appurtenances thereto of skin, pulp, pip, rind, seeds and juice, for the use of the beneficiary, to himself and his assigns, and personal representatives, in fee simple forever.*

*Free from all liens encumbrances, limitations, restraints, easements, covenants, restrictions, or conditions, of whatsoever kind or character, and any and all prior conveyances, transfers, deeds, or other documents now or to the contrary notwithstanding.*

*With full power to bite, cut, suck or otherwise to use said orange, or otherwise to dispose of the same, with or without its skin, pulp, pip, rind, seeds or juice.”*



Take notes, you lovers of our legal system of jurisprudence! This is law at it's finest.

**Law is a unique profession. Actually, you must admit that we lawyers are really creative. Like medical doctors and other professionals, we invent our own language, knowing the average person can't understand it.**

**After all, if you can't understand what we are saying, you need us more, right? We lawyers call it ingenious. Some call it insanity. But we love to use the language we invent.**

**Words like the following:**

**res ipsa loquitur,**

**... stare decisis,**

... respondeat superior,  
... caveat emptor,  
... voir doir,  
... per stirpes,  
... nunc pro tunc.

I like to throw in *cape diem* just because  
it sounds legal, but it's not.

One of my favorites is *nolo contendere*, which was  
defined even by Readers Digest Magazine as  
meaning, "Judge, I didn't do it,  
— and I promise to never do it again."



## **The Esteemed Sir Winston Churchill**

Churchill was a constant thorn in the flesh to lawyers.  
In England, we are referred to as *barristers*, or as  
*solicitors*. Sir Winston, in his never ending wit said,

“Lawyers have a way of saying things  
that are vague,  
but in reality meaningless.”

I think this can be evidenced from the way some  
lawyers ask questions of witnesses. These questions are documented in  
an actual court transcripts.

One such recorded question from a lawyer is this:

*“Did you or did you not, on the aforementioned day  
Friday, November 4th, feloniously and with malicious aforethought,  
listen at the keyhole of the 10th floor condominium,  
then occupied as a residence by the defendant in the within action,  
— on 86th Street at West End Avenue.  
And did you also, on the Wednesday following the Friday*



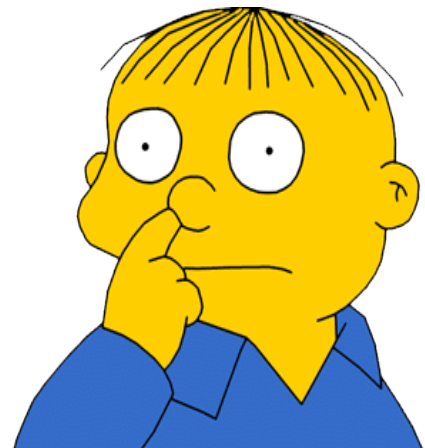
*in November heretofore referred to,  
communicate to your wife the information acquired,  
and repeat the conversation overheard on that occasion  
— with the result that the gossip of your wife gave  
far and wide outcry to the overheard conversation?  
Did you or did you not? Yes or no?"*

**Yes, we lawyers are the orators of our modern society. And of equal oratorical and perhaps even rhetorical nature, again recorded in the annuals of legal history in a court transcription, is the following:**

*"Sir, did you or did you not, on the date in question,  
or at any time previously or subsequently,  
say or even intimate to the defendant,  
or to anyone else for that matter,  
whether friend or mere acquaintance, or in fact a stranger,  
that the statement imputed to you, whether just or unjust,  
and denied by the Plaintiff, was a matter of the moment or otherwise?  
Did you or did you not?"*

**The noteworthy reply of the witness was,  
"Huh???"**

**Lawyers are a different breed of human being.  
First of all, we are unbelievably detailed.**



**This can be seen by the nature of the court room questions we just looked at, as well as by the example of giving the orange away, as we also just saw.**

**One lawyer I know is so detailed that he proofreads Xerox copies against the original.  
But I guess that's o.k., because he charges his clients for doing so.**

**Most clients would rather than he destroy the Xerox machine.**



**Some lawyers are so dogmatic and stubborn that they won't accept anything that everyone else in the world accepts — without proof.**

**But to be totally honest, most lawyers do not want to be confused by the facts. They prefer their own opinion.**

**And proof is subject to their subjective interpretation and opinion.**

**Lawyers are like the donkey with blinders on. They can only see what is directly in front of them, and they're very task motivated.**

## **Lawyers and the Titanic Philosophy**

**Perhaps lawyers have what has been called 'The Titanic Philosophy.' Surely you remember the Titanic. It was a large ocean liner that was dubbed...**

**'The Unsinkable Ship.'**

**At least she was dubbed this before she sailed.**

**The Titanic was on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic when it sunk. It**



**hit a huge ice berg while sailing, and went down, killing many hundreds of people.**

**It was very cold. Ice accumulated and caused hazardous conditions for ships.**

**The most amazing thing is not that the so-called 'unsinkable ship' sank.**

**The amazing thing is that the captain and crew ignored literally hours of broadcasted warnings about those ice-accumulations in the sea lanes.**

**These broadcasted warnings were heard by the crew of the Titanic over and over and over again.**

**Yet, the Titanic crashed head-long into a huge ice berg, at full throttle.**

**They had the music blaring and the booze flowing — totally oblivious to anything at all else going on around it.**

**This perfectly describes  
most of the lawyers I know!**

**We lawyers are pretty straight when it comes to some things — like my mention of us not being required to take economics in law school. So when it comes to math, we're pretty simple.**

**Some have said that the best lawyers seem to do can be compared to lining up the lounges on the Titanic.**

**It also surprised me that at least the law school I attended, reading the CONSTITUTION itself was not required. I had to do a lot of reading about what the courts said about the Constitution, which is what is now called 'political law' — as opposed to 'Constitutional law.'**

**It was recommended that I also read the Constitution, but reading it was not required, which I found a little questionable.**

## **Lawyers and Accountants**

But sometimes lawyers can learn to think like accountants.

A lawyer was asked how much  $2 + 2$  was, and he replied 4.

An engineer was asked the same question, and he said he agreed that it was 4, at least in most cases.

Finally, an accountant was also asked how much  $2 + 2$  was. He replied, "How much do you want it to be?"



In school we are taught to view such thinking as a winning mindset. And winning is something we lawyers are taught to do at all costs — and at any price (realizing of course that our clients are paying the bill).

Let me reiterate we are people who will spend your last cent to prove that we're right — and then we're wrong half the time.

The word 'loss' isn't even part of a good lawyer's vocabulary. So in this way we are like the accountant above. We must win, at any cost. You see, our egos are at stake. Even if we do lose, we disguise it, rationalize it, minimize it or justify it in some way.

It might be said that we were trained under football coach Vince Lombardi. He was the one who said, "Winning isn't everything, it is the only thing." Of course he didn't win all his games either.

## **Lawyers Love Loser Jokes**

For this reason, lawyers love what are called 'loser jokes.'

This is because most lawyers visualize themselves as winners, not losers.

**This is true because, even if they lose, they always collect their fee. So lawyers look at others as losers. They visualize others as losers who are afraid, and hide from them, and themselves as winners to be feared. Thus lawyers love loser jokes.**

**If you really want to get on your lawyer's good side, tell him a loser joke or two, and he'll love you for it. I'll help you out by sharing a few of my favorites.**

**A LOSER**

**is a quarterback who calls for a free catch — from center.**

**A LOSER**

**is an entrepreneur out looking for seashells by the seashore so that he can sell them.**

**He finds one, puts it to his ear, and gets a busy signal.**

**A LOSER**

**is a piano player in a marching band.**

**A LOSER**

**is a guy who when he retires,  
and instead of getting a traditional gold watch,  
gets \$5 worth of quarters,  
and a phone number to call to get the right time.  
(I guess that's dated to the era of pay phones).**

**A LOSER**

**is a client who calls his landlord to complain  
about roaches in his apartment —  
and gets his rent raised for keeping pets.**

**A LOSER**

**is the newcomer who comes to town  
and gets run over by the welcome wagon.**

**A LOSER**

**is the client who comes to a complete stop  
at a stop sign, looks both ways,  
and gets rear-ended.**

### **A LOSER**

is the lady who stands on the edge of 'Echo Cliff' and yells, "Hello, my name is Milfred Imogene Merriweather." The echo comes back and says, "Jump."

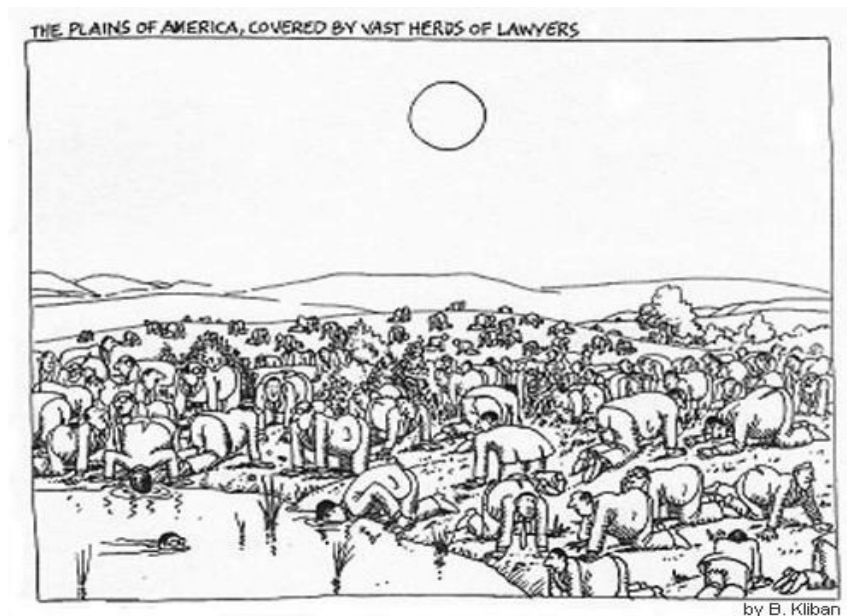
I'm not sure if that's any worse than a guy I used to know, who is now deceased: Leopold Fruita Piswanger.

### **A LOSER**

is the client who goes to see his doctor about a kidney transplant, and gets a donor with a bed-wetting problem.

## **America Has Lawyers in Abundance**

In America we have lawyers in abundance. It is said we have more lawyers, per capita, than anyplace else in the world. We used to have buffalo running in abundance, but we killed most of them off. Now we have lawyers running in abundance, and people would like to kill them off too.



**A medical doctor was giving a med school commencement address, and he said he wanted to conclude with one thought: *“Be sure to get all the malpractice insurance that you can. For each of you graduating there are three lawyers graduating who are dying to sue you.”***

**Did you hear the story of the Cuban, Russia and American traveling with his lawyer, who were riding together in a coach on a train in Europe?**

**The Cuban lit up a very expensive Cuban cigar, took a puff or two, and threw it out the window. The American was shocked and asked why he did that. The Cuban said there was an over-abundance of cigars in Cuba so they wasted them.**

**Then the Russian opened an expensive bottle of Russian vodka, took one drink and threw it out the window. The American again shocked, asked why he did that. The Russian said they had an over-abundance of vodka in Russia, and didn't mind wasting it.**

**The American grabbed his lawyer and threw him out the window.**

## **Humorist Mark Russell**

**Mark Russell's books are great. He's a political humorist who lives in Washington D.C., which he says stands for 'Darkness and Confusion.'**

**He says there are more answering services, and fewer answers in Washington than anyplace else in the world.**

**In one of his books he has a chapter called, "I Brake For Lawyers." Here's a few lines from the book:**

***“It's not that I don't like lawyers, it's just that there are so many of them.***

***“We who dwell in the nation's capital have learned to live side-by-side with those of the legal profession. We do so out of necessity.***

***For Washington without lawyers would be like Rome without priests.***

***“If they removed all the lawyers from Washington, then the city would become like a silent movie set.***

***“There are tax attorneys,  
constitutional lawyers,  
patent attorneys,  
trial lawyers,  
criminal lawyers  
and lawyer criminals.***

***“The whole town is infested with legal clerks, legal secretaries, legislative aides, legislative assistants, and assistant legislative aides, — all of which are lawyers!***

***“Even the owner of the football team is a lawyer!***

***“They make up the multi-divisional army in pinstripes: ‘the Brooks Brothers Brigade,’ and if all those pinstripes were extended horizontally, they would encircle the globe many times.***

***“The poor animals who unwillingly gave their hides to be turned into legal attaché cases carried in Washington is something I’d rather not think about.***

***“The massive legal presence in Washington is unavoidable in the place where our laws are made, interpreted, enforced, and often broken — all by the same people.***

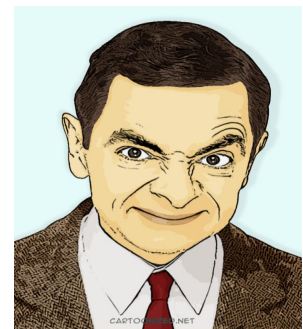
***“Whenever a bar association convenes, the assemblage always observes a moment of silence for their dear-departed brothers — now serving in minimum security prisons. It is usually a prayer for those who are doing three years at hard tennis.”***

**If you like lawyer humor,  
I’d recommend you read more of Mark Russell.**

## **In Defense of Lawyers**

**Now I want to say a word in defense of lawyers. Lawyers, despite all the adverse publicity, are very important folks.**

**I know because I overheard two people outside a court**





room talking about their lawyers. One was saying,



**“You know, lawyers are very important people. They help us get out of trouble: the same trouble we wouldn’t have in the first place if it weren’t for lawyers!”**

**Lawyers are important, and we are very well-trained in what we do. But one thing I discovered about law school is that it didn’t teach me how to communicate, but only how to dogmatically argue my pre-determined position.**

**Thus, we are much like robots.**



**Some lawyers don’t like being lawyers, or else they get burned out of being lawyers like I did.**

**After 25 years as a street lawyer, I simply had to do something else —**

both a legal mindset doesn't always translate into other businesses and vocations.

## **A Lawyer Became A Life Insurance Salesman**

One lawyer I know went to work as a life insurance salesman. His boss had been trying to sell some insurance to one particular president of a company for a long time, but wasn't successful. When the lawyer came to work, the sales manager sent his new lawyer-employee out to deal with this company president.

And the lawyer was successful! He sold him on the very first call! The lawyer came back to the office all excited. The boss was excited too, but he got a blank stare when he asked where the urine sample was that he told him to get.

The lawyer had forgotten to get the urine sample. He had to go back to get it, and in three hours he came back with a bucket full of urine.

His boss was very confused, and looking at the lawyer with a dumb expression on his face, he asked what that was. The lawyer said, "Boss, you won't believe it! I went back and they were having a board meeting, and I sold them a group policy."

## **I'm Call Myself 'A Recovering Lawyer'**

I call myself 'a recovering lawyer.' My office used to get so piled up with stuff I couldn't even find the file I needed to work on.

I got tired of being referred to as a man  
who earned his living by the sweat of his  
brow-beating.

But I truly respect lawyers who stay at their job until they're so old they look like dried up prunes.

As is said, "Old lawyers never die. They just lose their appeal."

**I personally got burned out and couldn't stay in until the bitter end.**

**Law is very stressful — ranked third only behind operating room surgeons and policemen on the front lines. And no wonder it's so stressful, with all the deadlines... the changing laws... changing court procedures... cranky clients... combative judges ... and unpredictable witnesses. And... and... and.**

**This drives a lot of lawyers to drink.**

## **A Lawyer Was Driving Drunk**

**There is a story about a lawyer driving home drunk after a long day at the office and in court. He went off the road and went down an embankment.**

**His car flipped over twice.**

**At this moment, as luck would have it, a policeman drove by. He stopped and yelled down: "Sir, have you been drinking?"**



**The lawyer said, slurring his words:  
"I should certainly hope so!  
What do you think I am, a stunt driver?"**

**Lawyers don't tend to like these stories because they usually don't have a very big sense of humor — unless you tell them loser jokes, as I've said.**

## **Do You Ever Hug Your Lawyer?**

Have you hugged your lawyer today?  
Don't forget we lawyers are people too.  
Well, at least most of the time.

And I know that most lawyers aren't really the huggable type.  
Recall they have what is called dominant hostile personalities.  
But it's true that lawyers need hugs too.

But you especially don't feel like hugging them when you get their bill!

You wonder how a lawyer can spend so much time on your case,  
when they have so many other cases too.

They must have clones, right?

They must work 24 hours a day, right?

## **Lawyers in Heaven: at the Pearly Gates**

Saint Peter wondered the same thing. A lawyer died and went to heaven  
(which several people have told me is quite a feat in itself).



He met Saint Pete at the Golden Gates, and the lawyer was complaining:  
“Why am I here? I'm only 42 years old!”

Saint Peter looked into the Book of Life and said, “There must be some  
mistake — I was reviewing your fee time slips and I was just almost  
positive you were 82.”

With all the flack lawyers put up with, we really do need some strokes and kind words, if not outright hugs.

A lawyer friend of mine said he really took a double pot-shot in court recently. He said he'd spent all morning in jury selection, and one of the jurors had been nasty to him.

The juror told the judge, "I can't serve on this jury because even the lawyer looks guilty to me."

He then said that wasn't the worst thing.

The worst was when the judge responded:

"Well, he probably is, but that has nothing to do with this case."

## **Psychologist - Politician**

Many lawyers are a combination of both psychologist and politician. You have to be able to read people and understand their needs (as a psychologist does), and then sell them on what you want to sell them (like a politician).

It has been said that there is no greater salesman than a lawyer -- with some of the stories they sell to juries.

## **I Saw A Psychologist (I Call Them 'Shrinks')**

I got depressed after I'd been in law 15 years, and went to see this shrink. He asked me about my family. I told him my brother Tim and I used to hate each other, and lined up cereal boxes on the table between us at breakfast so we wouldn't have to look at each other.

(Tim and I were quite close when we grew up, although he died of a heart attack in 2002).

Then he asked me, as a kid, what I wanted to be when I grew up.

I told him first I wanted to be a cowboy and ride the range.

Then I wanted to be a fireman and ride in a big fire truck.

Then I wanted to be a policeman and carry an gun and have authority.

Then I told him I wanted to be a crook.

He said, "Congratulations."

Boy, did I get even with him!

I saw him at a social event a few days later and he was complaining that everyone was asking him for his opinion and advice on personal problems. He asked if he could send them a bill for consultation services. I simply said yes.

The next day I sent him a bill for \$50 consultation fee.

What I've learned about psychologists and shrinks is that most of the time they can give you their undivided attention— without hearing a word you're saying. Maybe that's what it means to be a 'shrink.'

If I were in that profession I'd rather be a 'stretch.'

I hadn't told the shrink I'd also wanted to go into politics.

But I'd heard politicians didn't have any better reputations than lawyers. Perhaps that's because most politicians are lawyers.

## **A World of Lawyer Politicians**

In politics, everything is more complicated than it is in law. I believe this is because politicians are such a *cerebral* group.

A humorist has said they have so much common sense — because they never use any of it.

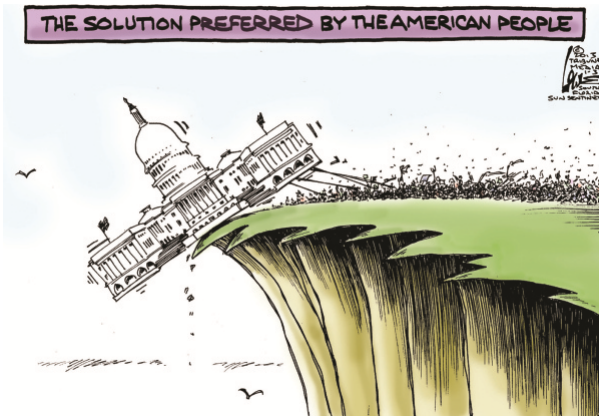
**Most politicians can't even figure out how America got founded in the first place — without federal matching funds.**

**And most of them don't know economics any better than we lawyers do.**

**Lawyers believe in the redistribution of wealth  
by means of LITIGATION —  
but politicians believe in the redistribution of wealth  
by means of LEGISLATION.**

I saw a poll the other day that was talking about the American public's view and opinion of all the legislation we have today (like the Supreme Court judge who said we now have over 10,000,000 laws to enforce the 10 commandments).

Public opinion was not real high, and the article about the poll described the public's opinion with the following cartoon, which I found really funny.



I love Sir Winston Churchill. Sir Winston didn't like politicians any more than he did lawyers. He was once asked to define what a politician was. He said,

**“A politician is a person who must be able to explain,  
with unerring accuracy,  
the future course of world events.  
And then must be able to also explain  
to the general public  
why they did not come to pass.”**

With all the preaching and theories and fantasies about the end times today, I think it might also apply to this. What do you think? We've had at least 10 MAJOR end times theories the past 10-20 years, and many more MINOR ones.

## **Politicians and Economics**

I believe a politician's understanding of economics is worse than that of lawyers.

Two congressmen were talking one day, and one was saying, "How much did we just appropriate on that last bill — was it three *million* dollars, or three *billion* dollars?"

The other very nonchalantly shrugged his shoulders and replied, "Whatever."



In case you struggle understanding \$1 million vs. \$1 billion, here it is (and this is not a joke. I'm serious!)

If I give you \$1 per second, every second of the day, night and day, never stopping to eat or sleep, it will take me 11 DAYS to give you 1 MILLION dollars.

But if I gave you \$1 at the same rate — one per second, night and day, never stopping to eat or sleep — it would take me 34 YEARS to give you 1 BILLION dollars.

I think that's significant. I think you do too.



**Lawyers do the same thing in the law that politicians do with money.**

Someone asked: "What's the difference between a good lawyer and a bad lawyer?"

The response was: "A bad lawyer can let a case drag out for several years. A good lawyer can make it last even longer."



**One reason I never went into politics is because I don't know for sure which is worse:**

**The Pre-Election Oratory  
or  
The Post-Election Analysis**

**I heard a great way to cut down on the former is to make any potential candidate only talk about their accomplishments, not their promises.**

**Have you ever wondered, like me, where all the solutions go once the politician gets elected?**

**The folk group *Peter Paul & Mary* said they should be forced to SING to the American people because in song we get into deeper levels.**

**They sing:**

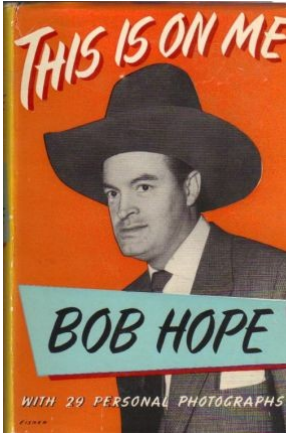
**“Music speaks louder than words.  
It’s the only thing the whole world listens to.  
When you sing, people understand.”**



**Thus I love to sing!**



**Bob Hope (God rest his soul) said he wouldn't run for President, even if urged to. But his reason for not becoming involved was surely different from ours: his wife wasn't willing to move to a smaller house.**



**Serving as President, or even Vice President (God forbid), is available to each of us who is a natural American.**

**But I guess there is still some question about where Barack Obama was born.**

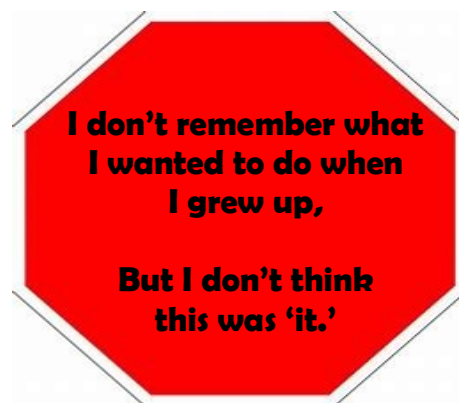
**But for most of us it's just a risk we have to take living in the U.S.A.**

**I hear that many of our politicians have nightmares at night. They sooner or later start dreaming that all the money they are spending is theirs.**

**Plus, if you fall from grace in politics, you just might get appointed as an ambassador — to the Bermuda Triangle.**

## **What Did I Really Want To Do With My Life?**

**I remember seeing a sign on a lawyer's wall one day. It said,**



**I can relate. As a humorist, I feel that law is just one ad-lib after another, but no one is laughing.**

A lawyer came back from giving a luncheon speech and his secretary asked him how it had gone. He said, "Terrible! I lost my sheet of ad libs." I can relate to that too. Often times it seems like we lawyers are on stage performing for an audience of a judge and jurors who refuse to laugh.

## **About My Speaking Career:**

I can relate to this in a personal way (a somewhat humorous true story).

I've always been a fairly good public speaker.

I've always mixed motivation with humor, and people like it.

Later in doing this, I mixed it with music: guitar and vocal.

The speech was entitled: Prime the Pump,

and it was a mixture of motivation, humor, and two songs, one at the beginning, and one at the close.

It was very well received at breakfasts and dinners.

Many times I got standing ovations.

BUT... it seemed luncheon folk had too much on their minds from work for this, and wanted more of an informational talk.

So that was easy to assess, I just stopped doing luncheons.

Then Scott, a speaker-friend of mine, who was a total humorist, and a very good one, said I should just try my hand at humor-only.

I tried it and bombed like crazy. Some people even walked out.

My mouth got so dry speaking I could hardly form my words.

I just wasn't a humorist, in the pure sense of the word.

So, the moral is: don't try to do what you ain't called to do.

I wish I could say this was nothing but a joke.

## **Speaking of Secretaries Again**

Speaking of legal secretaries again, most secretaries will tell you that most lawyers are terrible bosses.

**I was at a luncheon one day and heard two secretaries talking about their lawyer bosses.**

**One said, “My boss is so narrow-minded he can see through a keyhole with both eyes.”**

**The other remarked, “There is nothing wrong with my boss that trying to reason with him won’t aggravate.”**

**One devoted secretary said to her boss:**

**“How Can I Miss You If You Won’t Go Away?”**

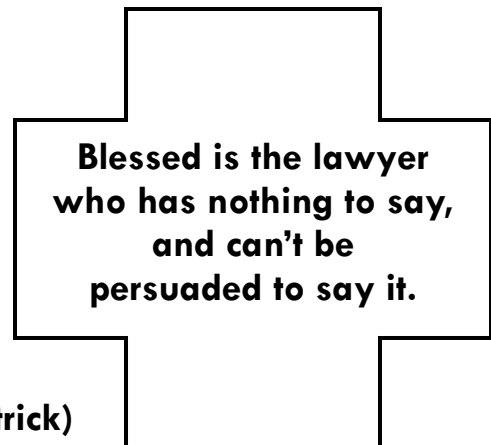


**It’s true lawyers have the gift of gab. Their mouth has one position: open.**

**If you think talk is cheap, just hire a lawyer.**

**We’re trained to admit nothing, deny everything, and talk by the hour.**

**There is a sign that is very appropriate:**



**(Finding a lawyer with nothing to say is the trick)**

## **Lawyers Can Be Different**

Part of the problem of most lawyers is that they don't know how to forgive. This is especially true of clients who don't pay their bills.

The word 'forgiveness' is not in a lawyer's vocabulary. I recall hearing of one lawyer who got even with his client who wouldn't pay his bill. He ran an advertisement in the classified section on the internet with his client's first name and phone number. It read:

"Lonely man needs companionship.  
Call between midnight and 6:00 A.M."

## **Lawyers Are Forced to be Cautious**

We lawyers must be cautious with everything we say or do. Some people are just waiting to be offended. With malpractice insurance rates so high, and with sue-happy people with itchy trigger fingers, we lawyers have to be careful in everything we do or say.

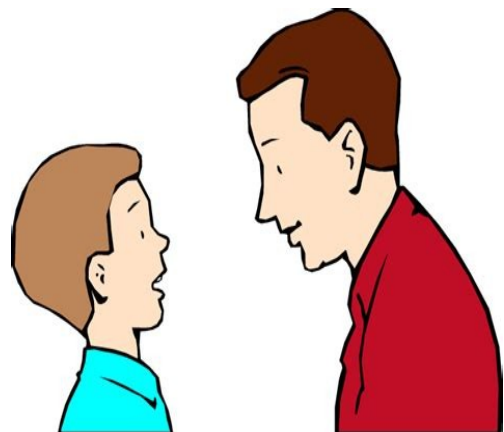
We have to be careful with our kids too.

You can always tell lawyers' kids.  
They're usually just different.  
Kids pick up everything from their parents.

If you really want to know what someone is like, just look at their kids.

Well, there was this tax lawyer who was telling his child the story of Cinderella.

When he finished, the wide-eyed lad asked his dad: "When the pumpkin turns into a beautiful coach, — is that straight income or capital gain?"



Lawyers are over-cautious to a fault, but society has made us this way.  
Perhaps our society has been carved out by lawyers, I don't know.  
But I remember when my dad and mom would get into a fight, my dad would just go out and get drunk.

Today it's not that simple.

Today, if you have a fight, you'd first better do the following things:

- check with your lawyer,
  - see your psychologist,
  - call your marriage counselor,
  - consult your accountant
- before you go out and get drunk.

We live in an increasingly complex society.

Even marriages seem to be getting harder and harder.

I recall a cartoon of a man and woman sitting in the back seat of a car, with streamers and cans tied to the car, and 'Just Married' written on it. The woman looked over at the man and said,

"You've changed since the wedding."

## **Do We Live In A Justice Society Today?**

What has happened to our justice system?

Bobby Kennedy, over 50 years ago, said we no longer had a justice system, but just a legal system of red tape.

How much more is that true today?



**I recall reading in *Psychology Today Magazine* that we are so messed up today that anything helps.**

**It takes about 9 million sleeping tablets to put America to sleep at night, and we take 2-1/2 tons of aspirin each day. And I'll bet that doesn't count the two I took.**

**Sometimes lawyers, who see things more from the inside, get so down and out about our litigious society that they'll find any excuse to stay home sick.**

**A lawyer I knew stayed home sick: he discovered his colon wasn't straight.**



**The problem is that we live in such complex times. As I said, the law was relatively easy until sometime after the mid-80s. Then it just spiraled upward out of control like a rocket taking off. One article said:**

**“People could learn from their mistakes more if they weren't so busy repeating them.”**

**A client of mine taught me a lesson early-on. And talk about repeating mistakes, I had a client come in for his third divorce from his third wife, all in only 7 years.**

**When I tried to talk to him about what might be *causing* his marriage problems. He said: “Himes, I want a divorce, not a lecture.”**

**Some people are so enthusiastic about what they're doing that they throw all caution and common sense to the wind.**

**I had a wealthy 75-year-old client so bent on marrying a 27-year-old woman. He was so enthusiastic he was insisting on buying a 5 bedroom house near an elementary school.**

**I guess he hadn't heard that the number one cause of heart attacks in men over 60 — was women under 30.**

**We must find justice within ourselves if we are going to find justice at all. I realized there was no justice left today when I was in court and a judge said,**



**“Having heard the facts,  
the arguments of counsel,  
and having reviewed all the evidence,**

**I'm now ready to enter a judgment  
based upon my original prejudices.”**

**Our lack of a justice system contributes to older lawyers developing inferiority complexes, but unfortunately they are not very good ones.**

**But we have to look at the positives, right? —  
look for wheat, and not for weeds.**

**At least we lawyers are not like psychologists who look at all the other men when a beautiful woman enters the room.**

**At least law is better than medicine in many ways. Doctors will do a proctoscopic examination with their finger for about \$750.  
I wouldn't do one for \$25,000.**

**A Date With the Undertaker  
At least we lawyers are not like undertakers.  
Each and every one us has something in  
common — both you and me.**

**This is a last date with one of these dudes.**

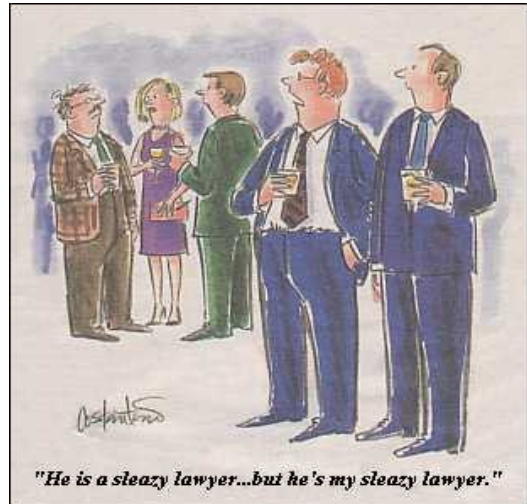




Talk about a sure sale!!!!  
You can't even object.  
Let me ask you: Is this justice? Is this fair?

## Lawyer; In America: Are We Going Downhill?

This is better than saying  
'to hell in a hand-basket,' isn't it?



Things have come a long ways downhill in America today. And it's not all the fault of lawyers. Ziggy, our cartoon friend, went to see his shrink. He said he was fearful the government was out to get him, and that he was being followed. He said he might have a full blown phobia. The shrink put him at ease saying:

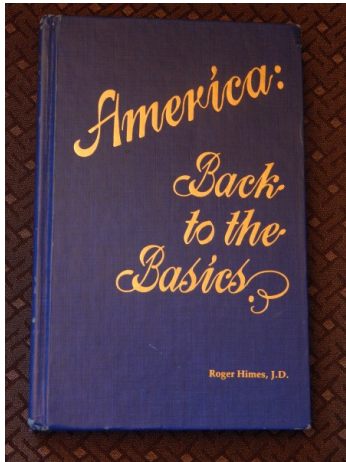


**“Ziggy, you’re cured!  
The American Psychological Association  
has just declared  
that fear of the government  
is no long irrational.”**

# America: Back to the Basics

I wrote a book in 1988: *America: Back to the Basics*. It looked at how to get back to the basics: how America was formed to be in the beginning.

It was the election year of George Busch Sr. and Michael Dukakis. I got on a lot of T.V. and radio talk shows with my motto:



The book didn't sell as well as I hoped it would. Although I got a lot of press, and was on a lot of talk shows, I only sold about half the copies I thought I might. Afterwards, I had an advertising consultant look at what I'd done and give me his opinion.

He said, "You're whole premise is based on John F. Kennedy's words: 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.'"

"Those words died with him, and you're trying to resurrect them. Instead, you've got to tell people how to get ahead in life, and make money if you're going to sell any books today."



I see this as a sad state of reality. But it's a lot more truth than it is fiction or fantasy.

**About this time, I wrote a song that is a satire. It shows how America is, and how it should be (and it's true of people all over the world too).**

**I share it on the next page.**

**To hear me sing it, go to: <https://wp.me/P1cSU4-199>**

**America: Searching For Reality** (A Satire, Copyright by Roger Himes)

**AMERICA! Land of pride and plenty  
People rushing to nowhere  
Idle time beyond compare  
Ignoring others in despair  
Searching for some certainty.  
People hear yet seldom listen  
Others look but cannot see  
Competing in the wrong directions  
Acting out facsimiles.  
People full yet always hungry  
Reaching out but seldom touching  
Outward laughing inward crying  
Avoiding our Gethsemane.**

**AMERICA! Land of opportunity!  
Money is our hidden treasure  
Wealth becomes the standard measure  
As we seek our fleeting pleasures  
Pride without humility.  
Grate concern but no compassion  
Fighting hard for selfish justice  
Becoming slaves in all dimensions  
While striving hard to be set free.  
Seeking answers while avoiding issues  
Learning facts but never knowing  
Seeking knowledge, seldom wisdom  
Intellectual security.**

**AMERICA! Land of milk and honey!  
Many songs yet few have meaning  
Voices filled with empty chatter  
Noise abounds while peace is fleeting  
Clanging like calliopes.  
Countless children yet few fathers  
Many houses yet few homes  
Many plans for great tomorrows  
While today remains a mystery.  
Many smiles but shallow greetings  
Religious people with no true God  
Many Christians without Christ  
Searching for reality.**

# The Country Used to be Run A Lot Better

When colonists came to this country, Native Indians ran it.

- There were no taxes, and no national debt.
- There was no air pollution.

Today there is so much water pollution that soon 'walking on water' won't be any challenge at all. But that's something else.

When the Colonists came to this country,

- you could trust your national leaders,
- and women did most of the work.

And the government said it could improve a system like this?



# But America Does Love Her Lawyers

But I still thank the good Lord for the way America is today. America loves lawyers. We have 10 times the lawyers in America as anywhere else in the world.

There are so many of us, and the profession does nothing but grow and grow. In fact, today there are so many law school graduates that a large percentage of them can't even find jobs.

A lot of them spend their days standing in employment lines — if they're not working at McDonalds or Taco Bell.



I'm glad I'm not looking for work today!

## **Humor In the Law**

There is really a lot of humor in the law, but you have to search it out. It's not always something that sticks out like a sore thumb.

It was about 1990 when I began researching humor in the law. I was confronted by a rather humorous law librarian. She said, "Humor and the law, huh? Now there is an interesting paradox. It's a contradiction in terms!" Then she referred me to two sections in their library:

(1) hypothetical inconsistencies, and (2) legal curiosities.

From these titles, I knew that I was in deep trouble.

Another librarian said to me, "Sir, the law is no laughing matter."

But just as I had discovered that God doesn't visit cemeteries (excuse me, I meant seminaries), I was now learning that law libraries weren't the place to find humor about our justice system, judges and the law.

## **Law, Can Be Amusing and Even Funny**

There are really a lot of very funny laws if you research them.

In Kentucky there is a law that reads: "*No female shall appear in a bathing suit in public within this state unless she is escorted by at least two officers, or unless she is armed with a club.*" Wouldn't you like to know more about what prompted this?

I found an amendment to this law that was even more humorous than the law itself: "*The provisions of this statute shall not apply to females weighing less than 90 pounds, nor exceeding 200 pounds, nor shall it apply to animals.*"

Wouldn't you love to talk to the people who drafted this law, to see what was in their minds at the time?

And if you're in Florida, there is a law still on the books requiring a bather to not be totally naked while taking a bath. This reminds me of my dad, Tom. He looked a lot like Willie Nelson, and was often mistaken for Willie, which he considered funny. Before he died he was having trouble with his memory. He said he got in the shower one day and forgot which pocket he put the soap in.

**In Minnesota, a housewife could get into big trouble for hanging men's and women's underwear on the same clothesline at the same time. I used to live in Minnesota when I was a little kid.**

**We lived in Hibbing, Minnesota, just a few houses down from singer / songwriter Bob Dylan (which wasn't his name at the time).**

**I was too young to remember this, but my mom never let me forget it. She talked about Bob and I playing together. She also talked about the time she hid the ham for his mom when the Rabbi came over to visit. They were Jewish. Was there a law against Jews eating ham?**

**But I do remember seeing clothes hanging on the clothesline.**



**<=>**

**In California, you are not allowed to go to sleep in an outhouse. How in the world could anyone fall asleep in an outhouse?**



**<=>**

**In West Virginia, an old law says a woman cannot awaken her husband if he is sleeping, — except in the case of an emergency, even if he is snoring and keeping her awake.**



⟷

**In Alabama, if you wear a mustache. . . there is a law that says you can't wear it to church — if it makes people laugh.**

⟷

**In Indiana, a mustache is totally illegal on anyone 'who habitually kisses human beings.' But the law didn't define 'habitually,' so there is some latitude there.**

⟷

**There are laws in some states that say a dog cannot come within 50 feet of a fire hydrant. I wonder if they put signs on the hydrants so dogs could read them.**

⟷

**In New Jersey there is a rather awkward law that reads, "*No dog shall be in public without its master on a leash.*" Perhaps those who drafted this law were Amish.**

**They are the folks who say things like, "*Throw the cow over the fence some hay.*"**

⟷

**Dentists in Rhode Island used to have a law that said if they pulled the wrong tooth in a patient's mouth, then they must have a corresponding tooth in their head pulled by the village blacksmith.**



**And in Oregon, you'll be happy to know you are relieved from serving on a jury if you are dead. I wonder if you are entitled to receive advance notice that you don't have to serve if you are dead.**

**<=>**

**In Michigan, it's against the law, punishable by fine, if you spit upwind. That's graphic, isn't it?**

**<=>**

**And in a small town in Nebraska, sneezing in public is prohibited. Plus if you're a barber, it's unlawful to eat onions during working hours.**

**<=>**

**I recall the story of the man who went to his doctor and said, "I don't brush my teeth, I eat garlic and onions, and I don't have bad breath. Why not?"**

**The doctor told him he needed an operation — on his nose.**

**<=>**

**If you enjoy kissing and you live in a certain city in Maryland, there is a law that says no kiss can last longer than 3 seconds.**

**<=>**

**In Riverside, California there was a law saying both parties must stop and wipe their lips with rosewater before they kiss. This applied to both the 'kissor' and the 'kissee,' as we would say in law.**

**<=>**

**In Texas there used to be a law that women could not wear their jeans too tight or they would be breaking the law — not to mention the seams out of their jeans.**



**There is also a law that you can't step on someone else's toes, unless you can prove it was 'an unavoidable accident.'**



**<=>**

**I think there should be a law in business saying you can't step on other people in your frantic climb to the top to make the most money.**



## **Our Laws Are Drafted By Lawyers**

**In just beginning law school I heard a speech by the dean who said:**

**“You are about to embark on a course of study that will try your very souls.**

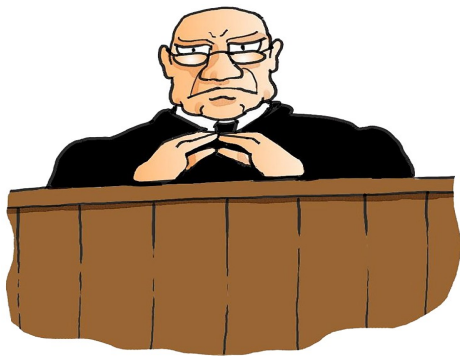
**“Some of you will make it, and some will crack.**

**“If you make it, you’ll go on to draft our laws.**

**If you crack you will become lawyers.”**



In the open courtroom one day, after a trial, a judge made a thought-provoking statement. He said to both parties:



**“If I’ve made either of you happy today, then I haven’t done my job.”**

Another judge made a very interesting statement. In speaking to one of the parties, with whom the judge was irritated because the man was whining and obnoxious he very sternly said:



**“Sir, the law is not necessarily fair. The law is simply the law.”**

I asked if I could quote him, but he said he’d hold me in contempt of court if I did.

There was a guy in the divorce trial who said that all he got awarded was the stuff that fell off his ex-wife’s truck as she pulled away.

One of the parties in the courtroom one day stood up and said, “Your honor, I demand justice!” The judge replied, “Sit down and shut up. Have you forgotten where you are?”

I’ve discovered that going to court is a little bit like playing Russian Roulette.

## **The Law Is About Trying to Transfer the Blame**

In court, lawyers must often be very inventive, to find ways from keeping their client from being convicted of a crime.

We often try to do this by trying to transfer the blame to someone else.

A lawyer was defending his client against drunken driving charges and he put a farmer on the witness stand and was examining him:

*“So you are the one who planted the corn —  
that was used by the distillery —  
and sold to the brewery —  
that made the liquor —  
that was sold to the bar —  
that served my client —  
that caused him to have an accident  
while driving home drunk.”*

## **Expectancy Can Be A Real Killer**

Some people seem to think that lawyers are like miracle workers. We can't pull rabbits out of the hat all the time. I've heard it said:

**“If you get drunk, get in your car,  
and try to run someone down,  
don't expect your lawyer to get you off  
with an overtime parking fine.”**

In the law, false expectancy can really be a killer.

I've won cases that I knew I should have lost, and I've lost cases I knew I had won. Life doesn't just always make sense. As I said, it's a little bit like playing Russian Roulette.

It's like the lady who wrote the Kayro Corn Syrup Company. She said, “Gentlemen, I've taken three bottles of your corn syrup, and my corns are still just as bad as ever.”

Again, expecting your lawyer to be a miracle worker is a little like...

Expecting the government to reduce spending.

Expecting the Mafia to fight crime.

Expecting the fox to guard the hen-house.

Expecting our politicians to keep their promises.

## **Charlie Jarvis Is A Dentist - Turned Humorist (He, Like Lawyers, Dealt With False-Expectancy)**



Charlie had some problems with expectancy in dental practice. He tells the story of a patient who came in and said he wanted the yellow stain to be taken off his teeth.

Charlie said, “Good grief, man, you’ve been smoking for 25 years. I can’t get the yellow off those teeth.” The man said, “Now Dr. Jarvis, you are a professional man, surely you can suggest something.” Charlie said, “I guess we could pull them all.”

The man was outraged, and jumped up out of his chair: “Pull them? Are you crazy? I expect some professional advice better than that.”

Charlie said, “How about wearing a brown tie?”

There are some things that you just can’t do anything about — but yet some people expect you to do something miraculous if you’re a professional person.



Talking about expectancy, there was an old lady who called the fire department. She said a man was trying to break into her apartment.

The man told her she needed the police, not the fire department.

But she kept insisting she wanted the fire department. The man asked why she needed the fire department and she replied, "Because I'm on the second floor, and he needs a ladder."

Expectancy can be a real crusher. You have to know where folks are coming from.

People don't know the process of education we go through to become attorneys. And some people criticize how we lawyers are educated.



Comedian Al Capp made a remark about law school:

**"If they are going to consider that to be education, we should start calling a bank robbery 'a financial transaction'."**

Learning things from your lawyer. And other people watch us and pick up on our legal thinking traits.

There is the story of the farmer who learned a lot from his lawyer's way of thinking. A stranger walked up to the front door of his farmhouse and asked how much the farmer's bull was worth. Pausing to consider the question, the farmer finally replied, "Well, that depends!"

- Do you want to buy him?
- Are you a tax collector?
- Or did he just get run over by a truck?"

I guess he'd learned some things  
from his lawyer, right?



But again, expectancy is a big killer of reality. A guy bought a copy of Ernest Hemmingway's book: *Across the River and Into the Trees*. He shortly returned the book to the bookstore and wanted his money back. He thought it was a golf book.

Another example of people thinking like lawyers is the story of the businessman who had a terminal illness and wasn't expected to live. He wanted to see his lawyer about revising his *Last Will & Testament*.



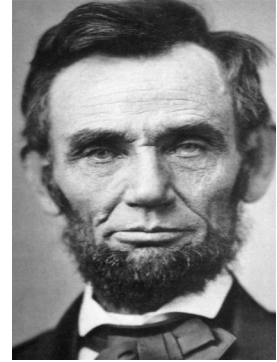
He said he wanted to put a clause in his will for his employees: all who had worked for him for 20 years would receive \$50,000.

His lawyer said that was very generous, but that the man had only been in business for 10 years, and he was going to die soon.

The man said, "I know... I know... but it makes for great publicity, and enhances our corporate image."

**We lawyers are paid to give advice, as said by President Abraham Lincoln:**

*“A lawyer’s advice is his stock and trade.”*



## **A Lawyer’s Job Is To Give Advice**

**(You must decide if the advice is good or not)**



**A doctor gives his lawyer credit for some good advice.**

**The doctor said he was always being plagued by people at social events to give them professional advice about some problem they had.**

**He said it irritated him and he asked what he could do about it.**

**The lawyer thought and then said, “Well, merely tell them to take off all their clothes and let you examine them.”**

**The doctor said it worked great and people stopped asking him questions.**

**Another doctor learned about marketing from his lawyer. The lawyer told him that if he made his patients wait in the waiting room longer, they would get even sicker due to being exposed to other patients who were more sick than they were.**

**The doctor reported that this worked great when he increased the waiting time from 30 to 45 minutes. His billings increased about 30%.**

**Lawyers are often asked for advice about money matters.**

**I've always wondered why someone would drive to a lawyer's office in a Mercedes, to get money advice from someone who drives to his office in a Toyota.**

**But I guess that's not my concern, is it?**

**I was in a lawyer's office once and he had a book on the shelf titled:**

***The Short History of Money*  
(It was 100 pages all blank)**



**And money is important. It does at least four things:**

- (1) it provides security,**
- (2) it pays the bills,**
- (3) it buys toys, leisure and fun,**
- (4) it helps bridge the generation gap.**

**The Generation Gap. Speaking of the generation gap, this little boy asked his dad (who was an important judge) how he could get \$20 to buy something he wanted.**

**To get rid of him, his dad told him to write God and ask him for it.**

**The boy did write God, telling him why he needed \$20, and mailed the letter, just addressing it to 'God.' The post office didn't know what to do with it so they sent it to the President in Washington D.C.**



He didn't know what to do with it, but didn't want the boy to think God forgot him, so he sent him back \$10, hoping the reduction in funds would teach the boy money management.

(He probably added it to the national debt).



When the boy got the money he went into his dad complaining that God had sent the money back through the government, but they had kept half of it.



## **Personal Opinion vs. Professional Advice**

Sometimes we lawyers have a choice to make in giving people advice. When clients ask me questions, I'll sometimes reply by asking:

**“Do you want my personal opinion,  
or my professional advice?”**

The two are not always one and the same. Most often an opinion is a judgment based on facts as we know them, which can readily change. An opinion is based more on experience and discernment than facts: “Look before you leap,” vs. “He who hesitates is lost.”

# The Ten Commandments of Law

We've all heard of God's 10 Commandments. Well, here are 10 commandments in law too.

Let me share the 10 commandments for lawyers. By the way, don't tell any lawyer I shared these with you or they might get mad.

I said it earlier: a Supreme Court Justice remarked that we now have over 10 million LAWS in America to enforce the 10 COMMANDMENTS.



This is why we lawyers sometimes get confused, wouldn't you imagine?

And it's also why we have developed the 10 commandments of lawyers, which I will now share with you.

## Commandment 1.

Every sentence of 100 words should have at least one comma.

Note: this will also give English teachers a thrill because I understand they don't get many thrills.

## Commandment 2.

Every group of 50 words should have at least one loophole in it, and for every loophole you create or find, you can increase your fee at least 25%.

### **Commandment 3.**

If you can't convince the opposition, confuse them, and if you have no basis for an argument, browbeat and abuse the other party.

### **Commandment 4.**

Question everything, deny nothing, talk by the hour, and be utterly obnoxious — and vague as possible.

Remember: you are not in the law for popularity, but for money.

### **Commandment 5.**

Always be sincere, whether you mean it or not.

### **Commandment 6.**

Never assume anything at all, unless it's a mortgage.

Remember that castles in the air are the only pieces of real estate a person can own without the use of lawyers.

This is because there are no title deeds to them.

Neurotics, build them, psychotics live in them, and psychologists collect the rent.



### **Commandment 7.**

The more two lawyers disagree, the more chance there is that one of them may be right. The law consists of strife, contention, conflict and disagreement.

## **Commandment 8.**

**A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's written on.**

**But neither is a written contract, for most practical purposes, so what difference does it make?**

**Cherish those file cabinets full of worthless pieces of paper most people call 'contracts,' and collect all of them you can, because they will provide you with more work in the future, and thus more money.**



## **Commandment 9.**

**Never view anything as simple: make everything as complex as you possibly can. Given more time, and a larger fee, you can complicate anything.**

**And don't worry about morals.**

**Remember Nixon's axiom:**

**"If 2 wrongs don't make a right, then try 3."**

**Nixon is also the one who said,**

**"If the President does it, this means it is not illegal."**

**Right! And the moon is made out of green cheese too!**

## **Commandment 10.**

**Everything is easier to get into than it is to get out of. Therefore, if your client is in it up to their nose, tell them to keep their mouth shut.**

**Then charge them twice as much to get out of it.**

## **Commandment 11.**

If you're guilty and wrong, don't admit it. Remember that lawyers never, never make mistakes. (Oh... forgive me. I mean mistakes).

O.K., I just screwed up. I blew it.  
That is 11 commands, not 10.  
But I won't charge extra for extra one.

Besides, I told you we lawyers aren't good at math.

These 10 commandments help lawyers to keep from living in total chaos.

## **It's Lawyers Who Create the Chaos**

Speaking of chaos, I like this story. A prostitute, a doctor, an engineer and a lawyer were talking one day, and they were arguing about what was the oldest profession in the world.

The prostitute said, "Come on, it's just a given — we know that prostitution is the oldest profession. It's not open for debate."

However, the doctor said, "That's not necessarily true. Early in the book of Genesis it says that God made woman by taking a rib from the side of man. That is a surgical technique, and so I feel medicine is the oldest profession in the world."

But the engineer replied, "Yes but earlier in Genesis it says that God created the heavens and the earth out of chaos. This is an engineering feat, and thus engineering is the oldest profession in the world."

The lawyer simply said:

**"Who do you think  
created the chaos?"**



## **The Best Way To Introduce New Laws**

Speaking of laws again, in ancient times laws used to be introduced in a very simple way: the person would stand on a platform with a rope around their neck as they proposed it.

If people liked the proposed law they would remove the rope.

If they didn't like the proposed law, they would remove the platform.

It was a very good way to keep from getting 10,000,000 laws to enforce the 10 commandments. It sure cut down on meaningless laws and regulations.



**I think they should implement this in Congress.  
What do you think?**

Speaking of Congress, one Congressman was asked why so many of them choose to spend most of their time in Washington D.C., rather than at home. He said, "Because we can't live at home under some of the laws we pass."

Many things don't make common sense. Someone has said:

**"It's only in America that we lock up the jury at night  
— but allow the accused to go home free."**

## **Litigation Can Be Humorous**

Litigation can sometimes be humorous, unless you are the one involved in it. At least you have the choice to either laugh or cry.

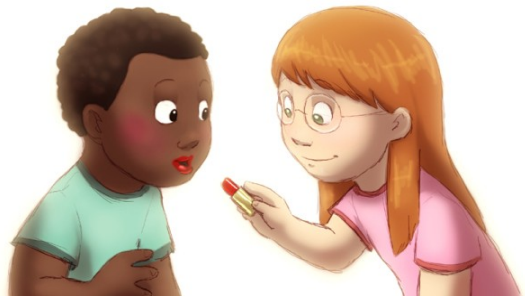
For instance, have you heard about the continuous law suits over bras?

Certain private schools insist that girls wear bras, and some girls don't like it. So every year there are lawsuits for discrimination.

Perhaps they should insist that boys wear bras too, so there wouldn't be any discrimination. It would make as much sense.



Who knows, maybe guys should start wearing lipstick too.



A college student in Boulder, Colorado sued his parents.

He sued them for what he termed, "*The mal-practice of parenting.*" The court, I believe rightly, threw the case out saying that there was no such tort. But litigation like this bogs down our court system.

And it shows the hurt some people harbor in their lives. Plus, although most courts agree there is no such tort, there are lawsuits between family

members (even kids and parents) every year over money issues.

Another meaningful piece of litigation involved the parent of a child and the coach of his little league baseball team. After the season started, the folks found out the coach was homosexual.

The parent could have taken his child off the team, but instead he sued. He sued demanding his \$44 registration and uniform fee.

We live in a sue-crazy culture. We'll go the extra mile to find some reason to sue.

Besides, the coach was just following the leading of our government. You know we have a transvestite government, don't you?

((Transvestism is the practice of dressing and acting in a style or manner associated with the opposite sex)).

It's true about our government:

**We used to have a tall, energetic, lanky  
Uncle Sam,  
but all we have now is a big, fat, lazy  
Mama Washington.**

## **Americans Have A Different Mindset**

We Americans have a different mindset from everyone else in the world. Some people say it comes from lawyers, and our litigious society. They may be right.

But here's a case in point. An Englishman, a Frenchman, and an American were flying over the vast Sahara Desert. The Englishman said, "It's a beastly, barren place, isn't it?"



**The Frenchman agreed: “Yes, it’s the devil’s playground — a real hell hole.”**

**The American looked at the scene below him, but he saw it very different from the other two men.**

**He said, “It would make one heck of a fantastic parking lot.”**



## **This Bi-Sexual Case Is A Favorite of Mine**

**One of my favorite litigation stories is where a female employee’s boss was declared to be bi-sexual by the court, and this was held to be adequate to defeat her case for sexual discrimination.**

**She had sued him for sexually harassing her, and she lost — the court found against her.**

**The court declared as follows: “His insistence upon sexual favors from plaintiff was not discrimination because the defendant was bi-sexual.” The court said the defendant liked both men and women. Being bi-sexual, he DID sexually harass her, but he was not discriminatory in his sexual harassment.**

**His lawyer was brilliant in his defense. He argued: “Yes, he did it to her — he sexually harassed her. But you can’t say it was discrimination because he did it to men too.”**

**On a serious note, here are 3 great principles to live by.: (1) Keep your word, and do whatever you say you will (CONTRACT law). (2) Don’t control others, demand from them, or trespass their property or person (TORT law). (3) Give yourself to others, serve them, forgive them, bless them and even love them (GOD’S law).**



## **Judges Can Be A Totally Different Breed**

It's a popular quote: "The law and justice make strange bed-fellows." This particularly applies to this case, don't you think?

Judges can be strange, acting like God in their courtroom, with the ever-changing law to back them up, as usually written by other lawyers.

This psychologist died and went to heaven. He was greeted at the big gates by Saint Peter who said, "Boy are we glad to see you! Come quick! God has an ego problem!"

The psychologist took a couple steps backwards and said, "You've got to be kidding. How can God have an ego problem?" Peter said, "He's behaving like a federal appellate court judge!"



*Note: If you are religious, please note that the pun is on judges, and not on God.*

Some judges do have a sense of humor. A judge fined a man for speeding. After imposing the fine the judge said, "When you pay, be sure to keep your receipt."

The man asked why this was important.

The judge said, "It's because you already have one speeding ticket, and this one makes two. If you get one more, you get a bicycle."

**And some judges preach a little too. . . although it usually falls on deaf ears. One day a judge was saying to a defendant: “It’s alcohol, and the evils of alcohol alone, that is responsible for your deplorable condition.”**

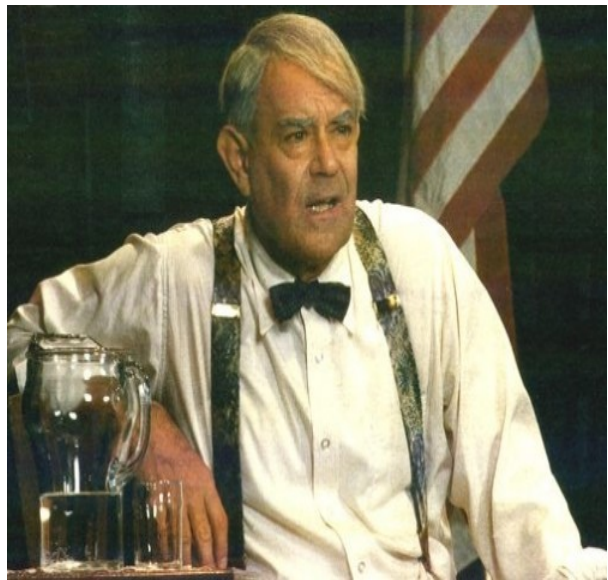
**The sermon went right over the man’s head and he replied: “Well, thank you, your honor. Everyone has been telling me it’s all my fault.”**

**The most interesting comment a judge ever made to me was, “Himes, you’re too moral to be a lawyer.” I pondered that comment for years.**

**Speaking of morality, a lawyer was talking to his associate and said, “As soon as I found out the deal was crooked, I got out of it.”**

**Without looking up, his associate asked, “Oh? How much?”**

**Lawyers aren’t saints, but all of us aren’t crooks either. The infamous Clarence Darrow, a renown lawyer of national fame, returned home after many years. He met a doctor that he’d gone to school with, and the doctor said, “Darrow if you’d listened to me, you too would now be a doctor.”**



**Clarence said, “Oh, and what may I ask is wrong with being a lawyer?”**

**The doctor replied, “Well, I don’t say all lawyers are crooks, but let’s face facts: even you must admit that your profession doesn’t make angels out of men.”**

**Darrow chuckled, “No, you’re right. You doctors definitely have the better of us there.”**

*The theology may be questionable,  
but the point is well taken.*

**There was a case where a judge was sentencing a man for car theft. He imposed a 25 year sentence, and the man cried out: “But your honor, I’m already 59 years old. I’ll never live long enough to complete the sentence.”**

**The judge replied, “Well sir, you just do the very best you possibly can. I can’t stop car thefts in this county, but there is one thing I can do: the next time there is a car theft, the folks of this county will have peace of mind knowing YOU did not do it.”**

**A client of mine was being sentenced for drunken driving. The judge said, “Wow! You’ve appeared before me several times the past 10 years. What’s wrong?”**

**My client said, “Can I help it if you can’t manage to get promoted?”**



**When I visited him in jail, I asked him why he said that.**

**I love the scene in the movie *Back to the Future*. It shows the lead characters in a scene in the future where a major trial in the courts had only taken a couple of days.**

**The young guy, Marty, from the past, was amazed and asked his friend, who was the old inventor, how this could be.**

**He said, “Things run a lot better now since they abolished all the lawyers.”**



**A lawyer, a used car salesman and a banker were gathered by a coffin containing the body of an old friend. In his grief, one of the three said, "In my family, we have a custom of giving the dead some money, so they'll have something to spend over there."**

**They all agreed that this was appropriate. The banker dropped a hundred dollar bill into the casket, and the car salesman did the same. The lawyer took out the bills and wrote a check for \$300.**

**One man asked: "How many lawyer jokes are there?"**

**The second man responded: "Only three. The rest are true stories."**

**The first asked: "What's wrong with lawyer jokes?"**

**The second said, "Lawyers don't think they're funny and other people don't think they're jokes."**

**Let me just finish this up by telling you the difference between two very important things: education and experience.**

**Education is what you get when you read a contract.**

**Experience is what you get when you don't read it.**

**Let me again paraphrase the words of Mark Russell, the Washington D.C. humorist I mentioned earlier (I love his writings on lawyers!)**

***"America without lawyers would be like Rome without priests.  
Take the lawyers out of America and the entire country  
would become like a silent movie set."***

**The defense rests its case!**

**Roger Himes, J.D., Lawyer**

**GospelPowerOfGod.com**

**TheGospelCoach.com**

**1MinuteForTheAmericanConstitution.com**