Bar band

For lawyer Lawrence Savell, rocking out is never a trial

The saying "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers" dates back to Shakespeare's *Henry VI, Part 2*, and attorneys' reputations haven't improved any since the Elizabethan era. Litigator Lawrence Savell heard all the jokes and decided to get in on the action by recording a series of humorous rock CDs about the legal profession. He even hopes that the self-deprecation might contribute in some small way to resuscitating lawyers' good names.

"Let's face it, people think we're stuck-up and have no sense of humor," Savell says from his office at Chadbourne & Parke in Rockefeller Plaza. "I hope to help change that perception. And I enjoy having a creative outlet outside of the courtroom." The counselor first played for audiences at University of Michigan talent shows, while attending law school there in the early '80s, but he fully unleashed his inner rock monster only after joining Chadbourne. "It's a pretty traditional firm," he acknowledges, "and I didn't think there'd be any chance of doing anything with my music there. But I got a tremendous reaction when I performed at our holiday office party. I was surprised because I thought they'd sue me." In fact, many of his musically inclined colleagues have volunteered to play backup at some of Savell's sporadic live gigs.

Out of these humble beginnings have come a trio of self-released Christmas albums (e.g., *Legal Holidaze*) and the admiration of fellow litigators. But Savell, a guitarist, keyboardist and singer, remains clearheaded about his musical abilities. When asked if he will eventually release a rap album, he deadpans, "My level of talent almost demands it."—*DD*

For more info on Laurence Savell's CDs, visit www.lawtunes.com.

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