



Opinions in the magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the State Bar of Arizona, its Board of Governors, the Editorial Board or staff. The magazine provides an open forum for readers. Send your letter to arizona.attorney@azbar.org

Arts, Attorney Style

This is our art issue. It showcases those among us whose creative genes will not be blocked by billable hours. Damn the depositions, muses full speed ahead! Paper, pen, metal, fabric, light—the talented attorneys featured in these pages embrace every medium, turning the mundane into something provocative, taking our minds to surprising places, twirling the prism to catch whole new facets our ordinary eyes do not see.

The comfortable response for those of us who still can't make an origami crane is to just be view-



Legal Creativity = Serious Business

ture of a person who looked vaguely foreign, add the plastic cover and Voila!, an artist is born! Also, it usually got an "A." Why did we let that go? Big mistake. Huge.

I propose that we go back to the future, and start making our brief and motion covers COME

ITunes downloads,
scratch-and-sniff
stickers, collages,
Instagrams—it's
all there for us.

ers; we are the audience for the creative. Most likely our last dip into the art world is wrapped in tissue in our parents' house—a plaster cast of our 8-year-old hand, dabbed with paint and wearing our name bigger than the whole palm. Then we hung up our smocks.

Nothing wrong with just liking the art, even better if we buy the art to keep the watercolors flowing, but we engage with the artistic world armed with an understanding that the line between the lookers and the doers is as deep as that between civil and criminal charges.

And we are sure we lack the tools to bridge that chasm.

And yet ... there is a lingering sense that a tiny bit of creative flair lurks inside us, just an ember that properly nourished could ignite into, if not a roaring fire, something that could toast a marshmallow. But what outlet? It has to be something that fits easily into our over-busy legal practices, something that doesn't require classes or re-allocating our non-existent free time.

We could dress differently, adding more flair to our uniforms. "Did you see Mark Harrison's ascot? Stunning match-up with those striped mohair socks!" "I didn't know you could wear a red-carpet gown to see a client in Durango. And whoever thought of bedazzling a briefcase—pure genius!" "Tom Horne bought Pharrel's hat on EBay and is working it baad ... although the shorts will get him kicked out of court (even if the Motion to Dismiss won't)!"

Judges have it easiest since they wear LBDs; indeed, Rehnquist was the first fashion-forward jurist. He had the courage to slap silver stripes on his black-robed biceps and strut a bit—putting a little Diana Ross look into his own Supremes. Alas, it didn't catch on.

Better by far is to take something we all do every day—write—and put a cover on it. Remember in sixth grade when the outside of your report on Brazil was as important as the factoids inside? Superglue an actual coffee bean on construction paper next to a tree with yarn fronds, cut out a magazine pic-

ALIVE! Suppose you have an appeal of an ordinary red car—blue car case. Boring. But what if the brief cover had a hologram so you could make the cars move as you move the cover. And of course your client's car would always move in its own lane. What about a mundane dissolution—sure we are in a no-fault state (and that's a good thing), but the cover can go retro: A Jessica Rabbit cartoon on the front with a middle-aged guy sporting hair plugs and driving a Maserati tells a story that your prose isn't allowed to broach. Got an Arpaio wrongful "show me your papers" stop? Cesar Chavez on the cover. A challenge against groundwater pollution? Julia Roberts as Erin Brockovich. And of course my personal favorite—the medical malpractice appeal where the cover is a pop-up—a normal appendix, then pull the tab and it bursts! Surgical tools left in the body go back on the cart! The correct leg is amputated!

There are worlds to explore here, especially with new technology. Why can't music accompany our briefs and motions? Raising a tax question? Beethoven's Fifth sets the tone. Final adoption decree? Theme from *The Brady Bunch*. Annulment for performance issue? The Stone's "Satisfaction" says it all. ITunes downloads, scratch-and-sniff stickers, collages, Instagrams—it's all there for us. We can even sign our briefs with a Selfie!

All we need now is a bit of Beta testing—anyone game? Just be sure you are ready for the appropriate judicial response—a well-crafted tweet that tells the world your motion (and your art) is denied! **AF**



Roxie Bacon

Roxie Bacon (on the right) has been a lawyer in Arizona since 1974, shortly after the glaciers melted. She travels extensively and still teaches, writes, lectures and mentors in all things immigration—and she can get pretty artsy herself.