--- The Best of Both Worlds---

ike many students, Steve Roach worked his way Lthrough law school. Unlike many students, his job involved handling almost half a million dollars worth of gold coins every week. Roach worked as a coin grader, using his lifelong interest in coins and fine art to determine the condition and value of rare coins. Since then, Roach — now a Dallas attorney, art appraiser, licensed

auctioneer, and editor at Coin World - has been straddling the worlds of art and law.

As an art appraiser, Roach assigns a value to pieces of art, rare coins, and other collectibles. Being a lawyer, Roach says, is invaluable to his appraisal and collection management practice. He works with many attorneys, often clients who are going through divorces, settling estates, or donating parts of their collections.

"I'm able to anticipate what they will need," he says. "I know the drill."

He also works with collectors to assist them with estate planning for their collections, and with those who inherited collections.

"People plan for their traditional investments like IRAs or stocks, while neglecting their art, coins, and other valuable personal property when making their estate plans."

Roach has loved art his entire life and can trace his passion for coin collecting to his grandmother, who gave him his first rare coins when he was growing up in Michigan. He went on to major in art history at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., where he spent his summers working with rare coin dealers. After a year in Dallas as a coin grader and trader at Heritage Rare Coin Galleries, he decided to pursue a law degree.

"I thought it was the ultimate academic challenge," he says, "and that art and the law would be the best of both worlds."

After graduation, Roach returned to Heritage to lead its trusts and estate department, and then moved to New York as a specialist in the 19th century European paintings department of Christie's, the world's largest auction house. Currently, he is associate editor of Coin World, the leading publication for coin collectors.

"I love the freedom to write about the things I love —

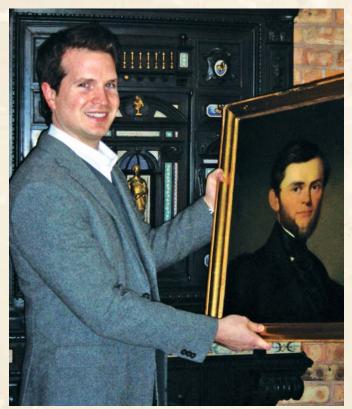
coins and collecting," he says. Through his work at Coin World and his growing estate planning and art appraisal practice, Roach has had the opportunity to "handle interesting objects and meet interesting people, but, above all, to see more and learn more."

It's an especially excitfrom

ing time to be an attorney involved in fine art and the larger area of cultural property. There are numerous stolen art cases involving items looted during World War II, as well as artifacts with questionable provenances Cyprus, Greece, and the Middle East. A Pennsylvania family recently discovered nearly a dozen

1933 Double Eagle gold coins (one sold for \$7.6 million in 2002) in a forgotten safety deposit box. When the U.S. Treasury seized the coins, asserting they must have been stolen years earlier, the family took the conflict to court. Another recent lawsuit, brought by private coin collecting groups against the U.S. government, challenged the restrictions on importing ancient coins from Cyprus and China. This is part of a larger debate in the art world: Do antiquities, like ancient coins, belong to the country of origin or to the private collectors who have acquired them? "Being an attorney," Roach says, "I get to contribute to the dialogue, and I love that."

You can read more about the overlapping worlds of art and law on Roach's website, steveroachonline.com. 3



Dallas attorney, art appraiser, and coin expert Steve Roach.





ost people don't think of karaoke as being a dangerous activity. But when it comes to competitive karaoke, all bets are off and neck and wrist injuries come with the territory. "I make participants sign a liability waiver," says Whitney Francis, speaking about the National Karaoke League, which she started in Austin in 2008. "Surprisingly, there have been a few injuries!"

In true attorney fashion, Francis who works for her father's law firm, Cure & Francis, P.A. in Temple and who lives in Austin — is serious about the rules of the National Karaoke League (www.nationalkaraokeleague.com). No team is allowed to have more than eight players, but each team must have at least two males and two females. Heckling is not tolerated, no song can be performed more than once a season, and each team member must perform at least twice a season. The league's most important rule, however, is probably its smartest: "Never, under any circumstances, may any league member perform 'Hotel California,' 'Stairway to Heaven,' or 'Freebird.' "Everyone else in the bar will thank you," Francis laughs. "I wanted to make sure that all of the teams and players had to interact. I wanted to focus on the social aspect of it."

What started as a late-night idea after

Francis' kickball team didn't make it into the playoffs has turned into a karaoke league with more than 500 participants and two divisions in Austin and one division each coming soon to Dallas and Ojai, Calif. Francis is hoping to expand the league to every state. More than that, though, Francis hopes to maintain a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere for participants.

"I would say that a majority of our league members are not great singers," she laughs. "But, it's not about that it's about having fun and making sure that it stays positive. The teams put so much effort into their routines, so we ask that the audience appreciate the effort."

For eight weeks, teams must present two solo songs and one group song (teams create elaborate performances replete with costumes and even flag routines). Audience members then rate each team's performance. Two weeks are set aside for playoffs. While Francis doesn't participate as a competitor, she starts the night off with a song of her own.

Francis says she's been surprised at how quickly the league has taken off, although she understands why. "Karaoke is just a way for people to be silly and express themselves," she says. "This league doesn't really cater to the shy crowd. It's like a comical version of Toastmasters."

TEXAS PEOPLE

Joseph Acosta, a member in Looper, Reed & McGraw, P.C. in Dallas,

was selected to serve as a co-chair on the education committee for the Commercial Finance Association, a trade group for



agencies involved in the assetbased financial services industry.

Greg Casas, a shareholder in Greenberg Traurig, L.L.P. in Hous-

ton, was appointed U.S. co-chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S.-Mexico Bar Association.



Jerry K. Clements, a partner in Locke, Lord, Bissell & Liddell, L.L.P.

in Austin, received the Southwest Jewish Congress' Flame of Honor Award. The annual award is presented to men and



women whose qualities of moral courage and love of liberty and service have enriched the community and nation.

Corpus Christi attorney and former

State Bar President Colleen McHugh was elected chair of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System, the first



woman to be named to the position. The UT System includes nine academic campuses and six health institutions. McHugh has served on the Board since 2005.