You Better Not Send That To Judge Buchmeyer

The contributions for this month’s column are from Granbury (Lori J. Kaspar), Houston (Peter J. Riga), Lubbock (U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings), McAllen (Charles W. Hury), and Nacogdoches (District Judge Campbell Cox).

IS THAT TESTIMONIAL?

This contribution is from Lori J. Kaspar, the assistant county attorney of Hood County (Granbury) Court at Law, who writes:

“The female defendant stood beside her court-appointed lawyer for her misdemeanor plea.”

Visiting Judge William H. Brigham: “Ms. Smith, does your t-shirt say ‘I’m really GOOD at being BAD?’”
Defendant: “Yes, your honor.”
Judge Brigham (wisely): “Is that testimonial?”

WE DON’T TAKE CREDIT CARDS

This contribution is from Peter J. Riga of Houston, whose letterhead bills him as “Attorney at Law/Author and Novelist,” and who writes:

“One of my clients was accused of aiding and abetting her husband in the commission of a bank robbery.” (Peter adds, “She really was innocent but I did not know it at the time.”)

Peter’s legal assistant “made economic arrangements after the client and I agreed on the fee. She was on the phone and I overheard this conversation”:

Legal Assistant: “No, we don’t take credit cards or checks. Why don’t you go to the bank and get some cash?”

At this, Peter almost fell out of his chair “laughing at the seeming incongruity of the statement, under the circumstances,” because “getting cash from a bank was the reason for her predicament in the first place.”

THE REQUEST TO BE EXCLUDED

U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings of Lubbock writes that he “had to laugh at this request to be excluded from jury service”:

“Request: I am an instructor at South Plains College in Levelland. I have no assistant. We have been seeking an assistant for four months. If I am not at work, there is no one to teach for me. I teach Auto Collision and Repair.”

DID THEY REALLY SAY THAT?

Charles W. Hury of McAllen was preparing for trial and reviewing the oral deposition of one of the defendants when he noticed this exchange:

Q. Could you please tell us your name?
A. Mary Smith.
Q. And where do you live, Ms. Smith?
A. In McAllen, Texas.
Q. You live there with Mr. Smith?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. He’s your husband?
A. Yes.
Q. And are you married to him?
A. Yes.

YOU BETTER NOT SEND THAT TO JUDGE BUCHMEYER

This marvelous contribution is from District Judge Campbell Cox II of Nacogdoches (145th Judicial District Court). It’s an excerpt from a motion for summary judgment hearing, in which the attorney was trying to refer to a case involving the Victoria Electric Co-op.

Mr. Dunn: This reference to Mr. Davis talking about the sequence, again, taken out of context. Clearly, the context is, we have the right to sequence the work as far as which section of line they’re going to work on next, because that affects their customers. That’s all he’s talking about. Nowhere does he say, “I’m going to tell them to remove this guide wire before you do this cut-out.” That’s not what he’s talking about, and everybody knows that, and he knows that. So, this taking things out of context was the same trick tried in Victoria’s Secret, and the Court said, “No, you got to look at the whole thing” — Victoria Co-op, excuse me. Victoria Co-op. You better not send that to Judge Buchmeyer.

Court Reporter: It’s going.
Mr. Dunn: It’s going.
The Court: It will be in the mail today.