

To the Bag

was saturated with musical and dramatic accomplishments. But nevertheless in the fall of 1913 he enrolled at the Harvard Law School, where he roomed with Dean Acheson. “For a month or so he applied himself to his legal studies and even submitted a brief to the Williston Law Club Nevertheless music remained his chief interest The following year, at the suggestion of the Harvard Law Dean, who heard him perform at a smoker, Cole switched from Law to the School of Music” (Robert Kimball, ed., *Cole*, p. 23). Subsequent history showed the switch was not only inevitable but wise. Cole Porter, incidentally, was a fulsome admirer of Gilbert & Sullivan.

And next is the recently-departed John Mortimer (1923-2009), known best on this side of the Atlantic for his creation of that undeniably attractive barrister Horace Rumpole. Mortimer throughout his long life pursued a distinguished career as a writer, as a successful playwright, and as the author of numerous scripts for radio and television. But unlike Elmer Rice he did not forgo the practice of law. He became and remained an eminently successful and indeed fearless barrister; he wore well the description of being “the only playwright QC” (Valerie Grove, *A Voyage Round John Mortimer*).

Undoubtedly there are others. As Dr. Johnson might have said but probably didn’t, and as the title of this Journal subtly proclaims, there is no lack of opportunity for the law and the entertainment to usefully intertwine.

Bennett Boskey
Washington, DC

FROM PULASKIVILLE TO DELAWARE

To the *Bag*:

Readers of *The Supreme Court and the Westward Movement* (11 GREEN BAG 2D 341 (2008)) may wish to know how the replacement of Justice Souter with Justice Sotomayor affects the tribunal’s geographic center. In two words, not much.

As is well known, the new Justice was born and raised in New York, New York (lat 40° 47' N, long 73° 58' W, disregarding fine-

To the Bag

tuning for specific boroughs) and at the time of her appointment sat in that metropolis on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. New York City is south and west of Justice Souter's birthplace (Melrose, Massachusetts) and appointment location (Concord, New Hampshire) – but only by very small amounts, compared with the majestic vastness of the North American landmass. The Supreme Court's geographic center (lat 40° 18' N, long 83° 00' W) thus shifts a few miles from Pulaskiville, Ohio to Delaware, Ohio, both on the outskirts of Columbus. The town of Delaware is hundreds of miles east of the population center of the American people near Edgar Springs, Missouri (itself subject to adjustment in the 2010 census).

This is the fifth consecutive appointment of an Eastern Seaboarder, drawing yet again on what Benjamin Zuraw and I called the “constitutional lawyer density” of the Northeastern and Washington, DC corridor, or what Adam Liptak dubbed in railroad terms (NEW YORK TIMES, May 1, 2009) the “court of appeals for the Acela circuit.”

In personal terms, the distance from Justice Sotomayor's Bronxdale Houses birthplace to her Second Circuit appointment location on Foley Square (13.6 miles on streets and highways, according to MapQuest) is great indeed. I nonetheless hope that the selection of ensuing nominees will take into account the geographic aspect of diversity.

Robert A. James
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
San Francisco, CA

REINTERESTED

To the Bag:

In the Spring 2009 issue, I read a letter from Anthony Lewis on p. 250 faulting an earlier article for misusing the word “disinterested” as uninterested. Coincidentally, I then read Eugene Volokh's article, *Correcting Students' Usage Errors Without Making Errors of Our Own*, 58 J. LEGAL EDUC. 533 (2008). For what it's worth, on p. 539, Volokh writes: