

Justice on Wheels

Thank you for Terry Carter's cover story on domestic violence, "Road Warrior," December, page 46. From the perspective of a family law judge and former domestic violence court judge, the story was very accurate and timely.

The ABA is to be commended for its efforts to educate the bar and the public about this important issue and for establishing a special Commission on Domestic Violence.

The association must help to get a commitment from the bar and the courts to make information available that will help women escape abusive relationships. Some simple examples: making sure booklets and pamphlets listing domestic violence services are available in public buildings and courthouses, placing such information in every public bathroom stall on a decal, making information on safety planning available, and providing literature explaining the process for obtaining restraining orders.

These suggestions are low-cost and unobtrusive; they will not embarrass anyone and will save lives. Legal professionals can make an important difference in the lives of abused women and their children, especially by providing pro bono services. The question is: Will they?

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I read Carter's article about Wynona Ward with great interest and emotion.

I am also an ex-trucker and am in my third year of law school at Marquette University in Milwaukee, but I live in a rural area. Before entering law school I volunteered with Prison Fellowship and with the bible study at the Wisconsin women's prison. I have also had the great fortune to clerk for the local lawyer, who has given me the opportunity to work in the community.

The clients I most enjoy work-

ing with are those who are the most in need of legal services and who usually can pay the least.

I have yet to see anyone who comes into the office turned out because of finances. The first question we ask is, "What is the problem?" not "How big of a retainer do you have?"

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Answering the Call

Former ABA President N. Lee Cooper's "Courtesy Call," March 1997, page 8, (a plea to lawyers to reverse the decline of civility in our justice system) was answered by Forrest S.

Bayard in "A Better Way to Divorce," December, page 100.

Bayard subtly reminds us that while good manners and kindness may not be key criteria for success in our profession, they are the true benchmarks of our society. He succinctly summed up what the eminent anthropologist Sol Tax wrote in "The Freedom to Make Mistakes," namely that when people have choices, as opposed to an authority or bureaucracy deciding for them, they will invariably make the right one.

As lawyers, it is almost anathema not to think in judgmental, cynical and adversarial terms. Yet I believe Bayard has demonstrated firsthand—in a heartfelt, poignant, personal way—just how detrimental it can be.

ANNE JANET CRANE
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Job Search Dilemma

"Searching for the Right Fit," December, page 74, probably gives many attorneys the wrong impression about today's job market. I've known some recent law school graduates who've had multiple job offers, but I know many more without a single offer at graduation.

Most young attorneys I know took the only job they were offered. Many others work on contract assignments while looking for—or often in lieu of—a permanent job. Others are working as paralegals

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