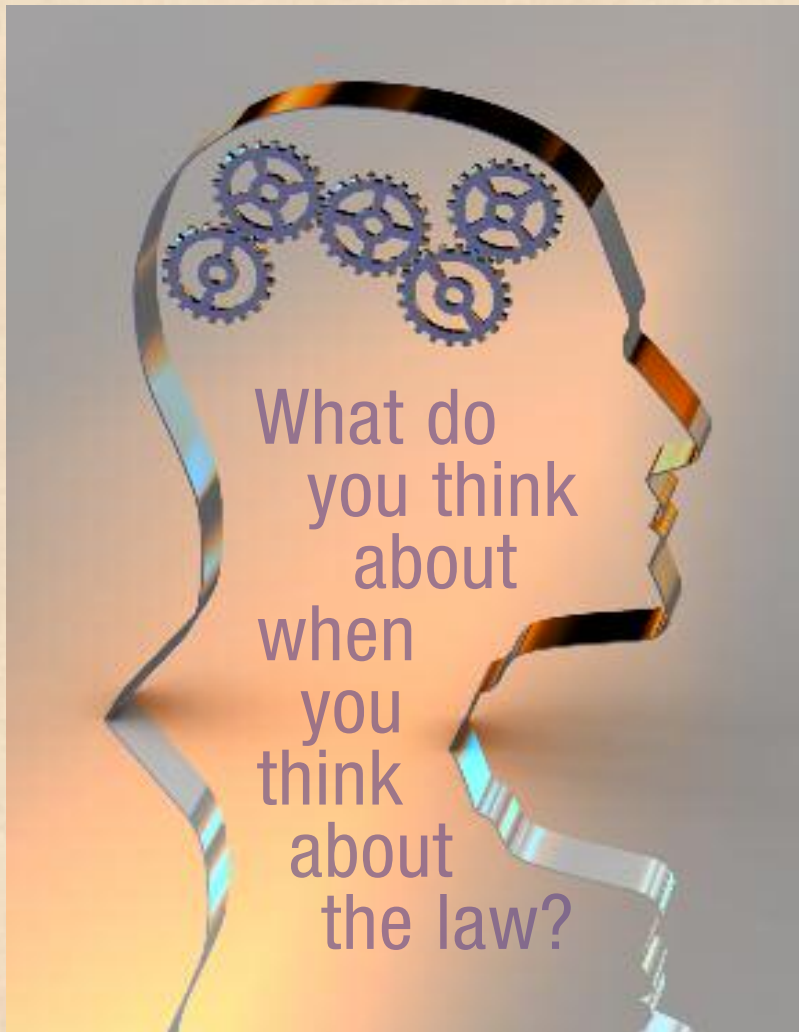


## WHERE WE ARE NOW IN LAW PRACTICE



### A promise is a promise.

We asked readers to share with us their thoughts on law practice in 2008. We asked you to answer the question, “**What do you think about when you think about the law?**”

We heard from a number of you, but not all signed their names (a requirement) or refrained from libel (a super-requirement).

But, as promised, here are the thoughts of a few readers. Thank you for your contributions!

#### *From Stephen W. Baum:*

The Arizona Bar is a fanatic for diversity.  
But if I may I'd like to note a singular perversity.  
The women and minorities are fine  
but let's be fair.  
There's none more disadvantaged than a  
stepchild with red hair.

So every single law firm ought to hire at  
least a few.  
And if firms drag their feet we must browbeat  
them 'til they do.  
They're out there, yes, let's hire them all,  
for God, The Queen and unity.  
Let's hire redheaded stepkids so we'll best  
serve the community.

(There were more stanzas in it.  
But a hundred words's the limit.)

#### *From Jennifer S. Murray:*

Vendors attempt to bring legal research into the 21st century by putting information at our fingertips with added bells and whistles. The result is twofold; legal research and analysis are enhanced in some ways and dumbed down in others. In mere minutes, we can now do the same research that used to take hours or days to complete. But there is an intangible cost to the profession. Rather than analogize or distinguish cases, attorneys look for cases that match fact patterns to a “T.” What used to require skill and intellect can now take just the click of a button. If the search is carefully crafted, then all is well. If the search is poorly phrased and ineffective, search results are delivered with the researcher being none the wiser. Quicker isn't necessarily better.

#### *From Fenton J. McDonough:*

### A Practice Tip

You may someday receive a communication or pleading that unjustifiably impugns your legal ability or your ethics.

Experience has taught various ways to avoid such non-productive personality clashes:

- Ignore it.
- Agree with tongue in cheek.
- Write a heated reply on non-combustible stationery and mail it in the waste basket.
- Offer to buy the drinks the next time you meet.