

# Bathroom Reader

"A groom must expect matrimonial pandemonium/ When his spouse finds he's given her cubic zirconium." -a dissent by Justice J. Michael Eakin in **Porreco v. Porreco, 811**

## The Country Justice

by Jean De La Fontaine

TWO lawyers to their cause  
so well adhered,  
A country justice quite confused  
appeared,  
By them the facts were rendered  
so obscure  
With which the truth remained  
he was not sure.  
At length, completely tired,  
two straws he sought  
Of different lengths, and to  
the parties brought.  
These in his hand he held:--  
the plaintiff drew  
(So fate decreed) the shortest  
of the two.  
On this the other homeward  
took his way,  
To boast how nicely he had  
gained the day.  
THE bench complained: the  
magistrate replied  
Don't blame I pray--'tis  
nothing new I've tried;  
Courts often judge at hazard  
in the law,

"The defendant herein is a truck,  
The vehicle is a pick-up,  
Alleged by a fed  
To be found in a bed  
Of marijuana, caught in the muck.." -Majority opinion by District Judge Wangelin in **United States v. One 1976 Ford F-150 Pickup, 599 F.**

## LAW AND POETRY

Some people believe that poetry and legal writing should not mix. But in this issue, we are going to highlight a few instances when legal prose became poetic and poetry evoked legal themes.

"The motion now before us has stirred up a terrible fuss.  
And what is considerably worse, it has spawned some preposterous doggerel verse. The plaintiff, a man of the sea, after paying his lawyer a fee, filed a complaint of several pages to recover statutory wages."- District Judge Becker in **Mackensworth v. American Trading Trans-**

## Poem In Which Words Have Been Left Out

By Charles Jensen

You have the right to remain anything you can and will be.  
An attorney you cannot afford will be provided to you.  
You have silent will.  
You can be against law.  
You cannot afford one.  
You remain silent. Anything you say will be provided to you.  
The right can and will be against you.  
The right provided you.  
Have anything you say be right.  
Anything you say can be right.  
Say you have the right attorney.  
The right remain silent.  
Be held. Court the one. Be pro-

"Thus, before the bar of court  
This defendant must report.  
He shall have to do his time,  
For punishment must fit the  
crime.

And that will have to end this rhyme."- a rhyming opinion in response to a rhyming brief by an attorney in **United States v. Rosado, No. CIV.A.90-00457 (E.D. Pa. April 12, 1991).**