

# DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Court of LOL: Legal fictoids

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1438 the Empress asked for totally untrue trivia about the legal system. At least a half-dozen of this week's inking entrants are lawyers. Take that as you like.

### 4th place:

Until October 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court did not have a kegerator in the Justices' Lounge. (Joe McManus, Silver Spring)

### 3rd place:

In 2019 Ruth Bader Ginsburg had tiny Hebrew script incorporated into her lace collar saying, "Trump is a schmuck." (Peter Boice, Rockville)

### 2nd place and the pen that looks like a hypodermic needle:

Judges and barristers are no longer required to wear wigs in British courtrooms, but only if they work their own hair into those little curls. (Daniel Galef, Tallahassee)

### And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

As part of a flurry of deregulation, the Trump administration nullified the federal law requiring bridges to freeze before roadways. (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

### Small claims: Honorable mentions

A two-year investigation by the Boston police has revealed that 23 Dunkin' Donuts can be slid onto a nightstick. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

A Chesapeake Bay retriever named Lex, trained by a Miami law firm, holds the Guinness world record for number of ambulances caught. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

A consumer successfully sued Nabisco after discovering that Double Stufs contain only 1.95 times the stuff of ordinary Oreos. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

According to the accounts of several former clerks, at the Supreme Court's annual holiday party you can't get Clarence Thomas to stop talking. (Jesse Rifkin, Glastonbury, Conn.)

After playing poet Allen Ginsberg in 2013 and adventurer Yossi Ghinsberg in 2017, Daniel Radcliffe is slated to play Ruth Bader Ginsburg in a 2023 biopic. (Daniel Galef)

In several American colonies, instead of prison terms, certain criminals had their town crier accused suspended for two years. (Steve Fahey, Olney)

After ratification of the First Amendment guaranteeing freedom of the press, opponents immediately proposed a Second Amendment so "at least we can shoot 'em." (Frank Mann, Washington)

A law in Tudor England levied a fine on anyone who passed gas in church; the fine was set at a farthing. (Keith Ord, Potomac)

An interested party in a case might file an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief. And since 2015, a highly interested party may file a BFF curiae. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

In a recent cost-cutting measure, Congress removed Justice Breyer's Secret Service detail because nobody would recognize him anyway. (Larry Rifkin, Glastonbury, Conn.)

As a result of recent cataract surgery, justice now has 20/150 vision. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Billing each five-minute phone call at his firm's minimum half-hour charge, attorney Jim Stovall once worked 48 hours in an eight-hour day. (Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

Chief Justice John Marshall instituted the practice of wearing black robes instead of morning suits because he preferred going commando (or in 1801 slang, "revealing in American liberty"). (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Fearing that verdicts might be decided by a coin flip, seven states ban coins in the jury room. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Police in California are planning to offer Swiss Army knives as a trade for AR-15s at gun buyback events. (Lee Graham, Rockville)

In 2010, the year of the *Citizens United* decision, the sum of the ages of the nine Supreme Court justices was 666. (David Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.)

In a 2000 announcement, Merriam-Webster declared "legal brief" the oxymoron of the century. (Rick



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1442: Same difference, or missing links

**A pole vaulter and a non-fungible token: You're likely to see both of them go way, way up and way, way down in the blink of an eye.**

A quarantine puppy • Pandemic gray hair • The world's largest pants • The world's smallest pants • A vaccination card • The singular "they" • An evening with Mitch McConnell • Jewish space lasers • A pre-algebra textbook • A triple word score • The Texas power grid • A mask-making company • The third seat on Jeff Bezos's space trip • An Olympic pole vaulter • Simone Biles • Pineapple upside-down cake • Cardboard audience members • Mozart • A doped horse • A non-fungible token • 12 gallons of hand sanitizer

It's our umpteenth and a half compare-and-contrast contest: **Choose any two (or more) items from the utterly random list above and say how they're different, alike or otherwise linked;** once again, most of the items were tossed out in a mass brainless-storm in the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook.

**Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1442** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, July 5;** results appear July 25 in print, July 22 online.

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement,** our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a winsome pair of stretchy socks imprinted to look like a box of Nerds, the icky pair-of-flavors candies, with the pink strawberry side on one foot and the purple grape on the other — except that the G of "grape" is regrettably pretty much absent.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Court of LOL" is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at [wapo.st/conv1442](http://wapo.st/conv1442).



The ultimate Loserly footwear: our latest second-place prize.

Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

In addition to petit and grand juries in the Jan. 6 investigation, the Justice Department will convene an enorme jury that may issue superpoenas. (Jeff Contompasis)

In Alabama, siblings may not testify against each other until their divorce is finalized. (Lee Graham)

In the Southern Hemisphere, possession is ten-ninths of the law. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Judges sometimes reprimand jurors for chanting "CHUNG CHUNG" at a key moment in a trial, à la "Law and Order." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

One of the earliest defenses used in ancient court cases was *Scio vos autem quid?* — "I know you are but what am I?" (Frank Mann)

The American Bar Association has a password-protected website where members share client jokes. (Mark Raffman)

The ABA has asked news organizations not to use the scurrilous and demeaning term "ambulance chaser." Its preferred term is "co-first responder." (Rob Huffman)

The emblem of the National Lawyers Guild features a pelican, representing the giant bill. (Jesse Frankovich)

By state law, the Mississippi bar examination must include questions on all Ten Commandments. (Mark Raffman)

The police have a long history of beating suspects until they admit to some sort of charge, which is where

they got the term "copping a plea." (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

The Supreme Court celebrates Casual Fridays by wearing shorts and T-shirts under their robes. (Michael Anderson, Louisa, Va., a First Offender)

The word "impeachment" comes from the antebellum Georgia practice of pelting corrupt politicians with rotten fruit. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Thirty-two states refuse to recognize the Monopoly "Get Out of Jail Free" card, even for misde-meansors. (John Kammer, Fairfax)

Under new Texas voting laws, cellars are considered three-fifths of a person. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

While it's false that you must kill someone in your immediate family to get into Harvard Law School, it's true that you must step on a kitten. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

William Howard Taft changed the Supreme Court robes from white to the more slimming black in 1922. (Rob Huffman; Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

And Last: The unsuccessful case of *Losers v. Empress* established the category of "classless action" lawsuits. (Drew Bennett)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1442](http://wapo.st/invite1442).

**Two contests still running — deadline June 28 for both:**

— Write a song lyric (parody or original) about something in the news. See [wapo.st/invite1440](http://wapo.st/invite1440).

— Sum up a song lyric as a limerick. See [wapo.st/invite1441](http://wapo.st/invite1441).

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"AT THE ANGER MANAGEMENT SESSION ..."** By ED Sessa

**ACROSS**  
1 Where many a promise is made  
6 Slugger's stats competitor  
14 CNN alternative  
19 With 38-Across, Beethoven oeuvre with 35 works  
20 Apiece  
21 Seal site  
22 Pong creator  
23 IGTV company, briefly  
24 On the safer side  
25 Hebrides hill  
26 Assigned a grade  
27 ... Rudolph was

29 ... Elsie was  
31 MLB blasts  
32 Fat substitute  
34 Type of type that shows stress  
35 Gave a thumbs-up

36 Hung over?  
38 See 19-Across  
42 ... Humpty Dumpty was

46 "Storm" seabird  
47 Went by train  
48 "Fresh Air" ailer  
49 "His Dark Materials" protagonist

52 "... welcome"  
53 Marx Brothers film setting  
55 Beatles nonsense syllables  
59 Cp. using caps and crowns  
61 Touch of frost  
62 Bayou music style  
64 ... Herbie the "Love Bug" was

69 Mano a mano  
71 "Words have consequences," e.g.  
72 Singer Anthony  
73 ... Santa Claus was  
78 Hardest to find  
82 Jimmy Eat World genre  
83 Korean car company  
84 Movie physician with a two-letter name  
85 Playground problem  
86 Lou Grant portrayer  
89 Oil filter brand  
92 Walgreens rival  
95 It has an apt

number of letters in its name  
Barely made a sound  
Puff the Magic Dragon was  
Clothes lines  
Moore: canned stew brand  
Lamb's cries  
Offerer of free drinks and chips  
Put in danger  
No. cruncher  
Bugs Bunny was  
Mr. Bubble was  
Quiet lake transport  
Highlands native  
Emoji, for one  
Birthplace of rapper Wyclef Jean  
Modify  
Strauss' "Alpensinfonie"  
Mineral removed from some baby powder  
Kate's TV mate  
Economic

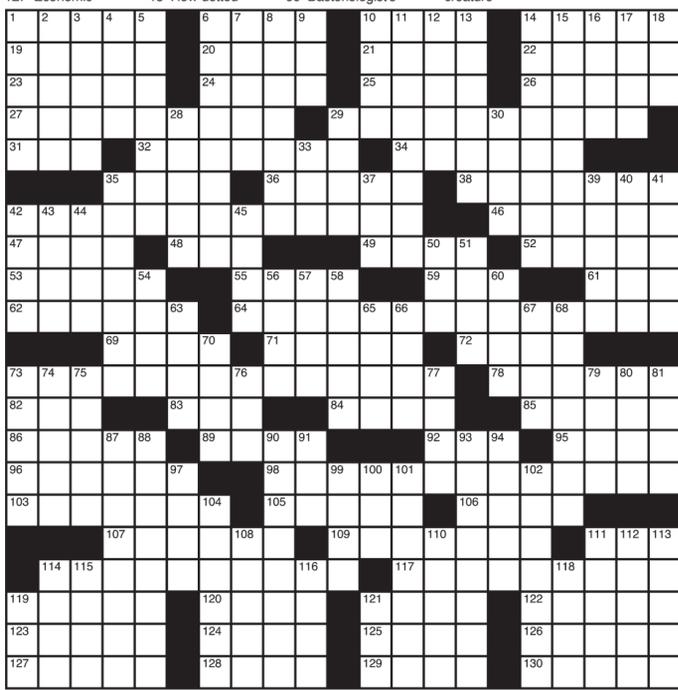
upsurges  
Supreme leader?  
Big name in skin care  
Upper body muscles, for short

**DOWN**  
1 Mighty silly  
2 Frozen rope, in baseball  
3 Zaps  
4 Fighting  
5 Virginia's so-called "Lost Colony"  
6 Rose on hind legs  
7 Hayfield sights  
8 Summer cooler  
9 Sow or doe  
10 Group honored at a Stockholm exhibit  
11 With great enthusiasm  
12 Feature  
13 Gemini rockets  
14 Blues singer played by Viola Davis  
15 How dotted

notes should be played  
Brussels-based gp.  
Cold one  
EI  
Close in theaters  
" Nagla":  
Israeli folk song  
Unappetizing stuff  
Cold and damp  
Shovel it in  
Addition, maybe  
Animal part that trumpets  
Nest on a crest  
Got some shut-eye  
TV physician with a two-letter name  
Viscous  
Fingered  
"No \_\_\_"  
Shoe polish applicator  
Garden guy  
Part of a musical  
Boring  
Word with stone or star  
Crown or plaque  
Bacteriologist's

material  
Trough call?  
Hunchback of fiction  
Bright sign  
Graceful equine  
Places to pick up puppies?  
End-of-week cry  
Quite a lot  
"No more for me, thanks"  
Printer supply  
Pine \_\_\_ dugout supply  
Avenue \_\_\_  
Paris' widest street  
"The Time Machine" people  
Musical score mark  
Item in a Brit's boot  
"Divine Comedy," e.g.  
Changes the wall covering  
Spare tires in trunks?  
Hosp. procedure  
Jolie de vivre  
Creeping creature

97 First name in '50s TV comedy  
99 Garaint's wife  
100 Bank convenience  
101 Not surprising words to music  
102 Holy Grail seeker  
104 One putting words to music  
108 Marsh of detective fiction  
110 First name in B-29 history  
111 Jack Frost's advice to his angry clients?  
112 Little, in Lille  
113 Sign of the Ram  
114 Heavenly ring  
115 Aware of mark  
116 Stout and porter  
118 Account  
119 City transport  
121 "Who am \_\_\_ judge?"



6/27/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 27:** You have an easygoing, gentle charm. You are creative, playful and like to converse with others. You appear quiet and unassuming, but you are intuitive and observant. Justice and fairness matter to you. This year your focus is on teamwork and cooperation with others because that is your easiest path to happiness. Explore whatever is mutually beneficial between you and others.

**Moon Alert:** Avoid shopping or making important decisions after 3 p.m. Eastern time for the rest of the day. The Moon is in Aquarius.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
A friend or a member of a group will probably say or do something that surprises you or catches you off guard. In the meantime, enjoy schmoozing but commit to nothing during the Moon Alert (see above).

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
This is a tricky day. Do be aware of the limitations of the Moon Alert. Meanwhile, discussions about money or property, perhaps with a parent, boss or someone in the police, could interrupt your day. Things are unpredictable.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Travel plans might be interrupted today. You might suddenly have to travel when you did not expect to do so. You have an urge to negotiate finances or spend money today. If so, be aware of the limitations of the Moon Alert.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
Today you might discuss shared property, debt, insurance issues or inheritances. Avoid important decisions during the Moon Alert. Meanwhile, stay on top of things, because something unexpected could occur.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
A partner, spouse or close friend will probably surprise you today. Or, perhaps, you will meet someone new who is unusual and very different. Make no promises and don't volunteer for anything during the Moon Alert.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
If you own a pet, keep your eyes open today, because something unexpected might happen. Work will probably be interrupted. However, a boss, parent or someone in authority might help

you today.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Social plans might change today. Something might be canceled or you might receive an unexpected invitation. Meanwhile, parents should be alert, because this is an accident-prone day for their kids. Romance might be rocky.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
A family discussion might be surprising today. It could be supportive in terms of help from someone else or financial assistance. Nevertheless, there will be disagreements. Small appliances might break down.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Be careful, because this is an accident-prone day. Nevertheless, you will enjoy chatting with neighbors, friends and relatives. You're full of clever, bright ideas. Keep your eyes open to avoid

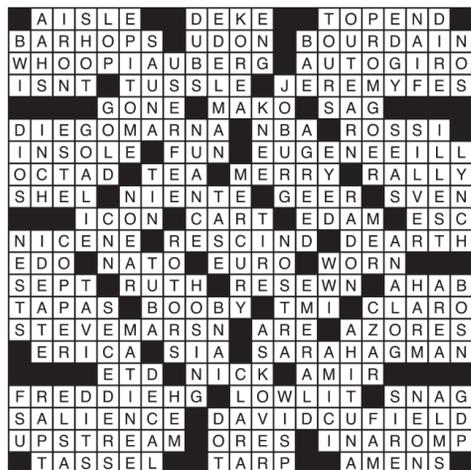
verbal or physical missteps.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Stay on top of your possessions and your money today, because something unexpected might impact them. Be smart and protect what you own against loss, theft or damage.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Today the moon is in your sign — at odds with your ruler, Uranus. This can make you inclined to jump to conclusions. It also will make you rebellious, which is why you might do the exact opposite of what someone suggests.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Because you might feel uneasy about something, you will welcome a discussion with someone in the family. Meanwhile, the rhythm of your day will be interrupted by something — almost certainly.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/20/21