

“STUCK IN THE MIDDLE WITH YOU”*

*Terri LeClercq***

*I'm in the law firm 18 hours a day,
And I don't know how it turned out this way.
I get a feeling that I'm playing the fool;¹
Hell, I might as well go teach at law school.*

*Deadlines to the left of me, billing hours to the right,
Here I am, stuck in the middle with you.*

*Yes, I dreamed of intellectual peers,
No memos stacked way passed my ears.
But I have students who can't jump-start their brains,
And faculty that don't know my name.²*

*Dean to the left of me, stacks of paper to the right,
And here I am, stuck in the middle with you.*

*Well, you make a difference and are proud to be teaching law,
And your students come running and begging for help and say,
“Please, please!”*

*So I'm doing this job for almost free,
No time for lunch but for lots of coffee,
I've finally learned to teach analysis,³
But the 3-year cap is my good-bye kiss.⁴*

*Because deans to the left of me, stacks of papers on my right,
Here I am, stuck in the middle with you, stuck in the middle with you.*

* A satire based on Keith Urban's lyrics for Stealers Wheel's eponymous song, first recorded in 1973. Keith Urban, *In the Ranch* (Capitol 2004) (CD). This song was used in conjunction with the plenary speech, “The Past, Present, and Future: The Legal Writing Institute,” in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 2002.

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¹ This depression does not reflect the view of the Author or anyone she has ever talked to (or at least officially documented).

² Author's prerogative; here, “faculty” is plural and thus easier to fit into the line.

³ See every legal writing/analysis text ever published for background help in achieving this goal.

⁴ The antiquated dinosaur of caps needs to die and become fossil fuel for other legal writing advancements.