

Today's Goddess of Justice?



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Justicia – the Goddess of Justice – carries balanced scales in one hand and a sword in the other. She symbolises the fair and equal administration of the law. We – modern Goddesses of Justice – carry a compendium, a palm pilot, a mobile phone, breath mints, a collection of expired met tickets, the odd business card, 3 biros (two of which are guaranteed to fail at the crucial point when you are taking instructions from a senior partner) – while balancing on a pair of black stilettos.

Our journey in upholding justice has become more cumbersome than Justicia's. While supporting ideals of impartiality and equality we are subjected to the following: blisters, paper cuts, inadvertent staple piercing, holes in hosiery and snapped stilettos. We have become caffeine junkies, boost juice dependents and Japanese take-away connoisseurs.

The following is a brief survival guide to ensure that your experience as a young female lawyer results in just outcomes for all:

Sole journey

Despite your mother's plea to purchase a pair of "reliable" Hush-Puppy court shoes (which inevitably would result in immediate and permanent "singledom"), you opted for the black patent stilettos. These shoes, commonly known as weapons of mass podiatric destruction - will undoubtedly cause you grief as you attempt to: race down to a directions hearing; stand over the photocopier attempting to reduce a double page onto an A4 sheet; or attempt to climb the hazardous step ladders at the Supreme Court Library.

To make your "sole journey" a bearable one, take heed of the following:

1. Carry bandaids with you at all times.
2. Familiarise yourself with every shoe repairer within a 2km radius of the CBD.
3. Always have a spare pair of shoes at the office – for those tragic occasions where one's heel becomes wedged on a Collins Street tram line – and one has a choice of leaving one's shoe behind or being hit from behind by an oncoming tram heading for Preston.
4. Never wear runners with your suit or hosiery with open-toed shoes.
5. Never buy retail – cross the Yarra and discover factory outlets.

Pretty in pin-stripes

1. Suits with a polyester blend should be avoided – not only will they cause you to be highly flammable (which could prove disastrous at Friday night drinks) – you will suffer from "shiny suit syndrome". Young men and women in call-centres across Australia suffer from the syndrome. Do not allow yourself to become a victim. Shine should be reserved for shoes not clothing. Let your inner-light shine as you strut down Collins Street, rather than your three-piece suit – which incidentally should carry a warning related to the potential retina damage it may cause others.
2. Always buy a suit which allows for "personal growth". You will find that fundraiser/fat-raiser chocolates are readily accessible in the office. As a result you will inevitably gain one dress size.
3. Avoid neck scarves – unless you are fulfilling an unrealised dream of working for Qantas or hiding unsightly blemishes.
4. Carry a spare pair of hosiery – you may leave the house looking like Jackie O, however you run the risk of arriving at work looking like Courtney Love.

Just desserts

1. Become familiar with every café that uses Lavazza coffee – do not subject yourself to nasty coffee.
2. Familiarise yourself with your local Boost Store and store attendants – it may result in fringe benefits such as less ice and more fruit in one's smoothie.
3. Eateries which come highly recommended are as follows:

- Tengu and Nori Nori are without a doubt the best Japanese take-away restaurants in the CBD.
- To completely satisfy your "hunger" - Il Bacaro has the best looking waiting staff in the entire Southern Hemisphere (the dishes are delicious as well!). However, if it is value for money which you crave – try Nick's Restaurant on Lonsdale Street – the best priced and most authentic Italian food within the CBD.
- If anachronism, escapism and size-ism are three of your favourite "isms" try Koko Black in the Royal Arcade. It has an "old-world" feel which will enable you to forget that you only have a one hour lunch. The ambience is very much Laurent Patisserie-esque - minus the suits, prams and tourists, i.e. noise – and most importantly it has a great range of chocolates (made on site) and the best hot chocolate this side of the Yarra.

Wishing you a relatively painless, stylish, gastronomically satisfying and successful 2004. ■

Quick Quiz Answers (from page 2)

1. Ian L. Gray.
2. Daryl Jackson Associates & Lyons Architects; 31 May 2002.
3. 11.25%.
4. 1511; 18.5% (1232 male and 279 female).
5. 15.

6. Sir John McIntosh Young.
7. Any three of the following: attending seminars, conferences, workshops and lectures; preparing law lectures; presenting law lectures; publishing articles in law journals, Law Institute Section newsletters or other approved publications; private study of video and audio tapes; member of relevant legal committee or taskforce; completion of specialist accreditation examination.
8. Notice of discontinuance. Translation – unwilling to proceed.
9. \$50.
10. The image was of Pamela Anderson's face. It appeared on the wall of Sam Newman's house in Canterbury Road, St Kilda.