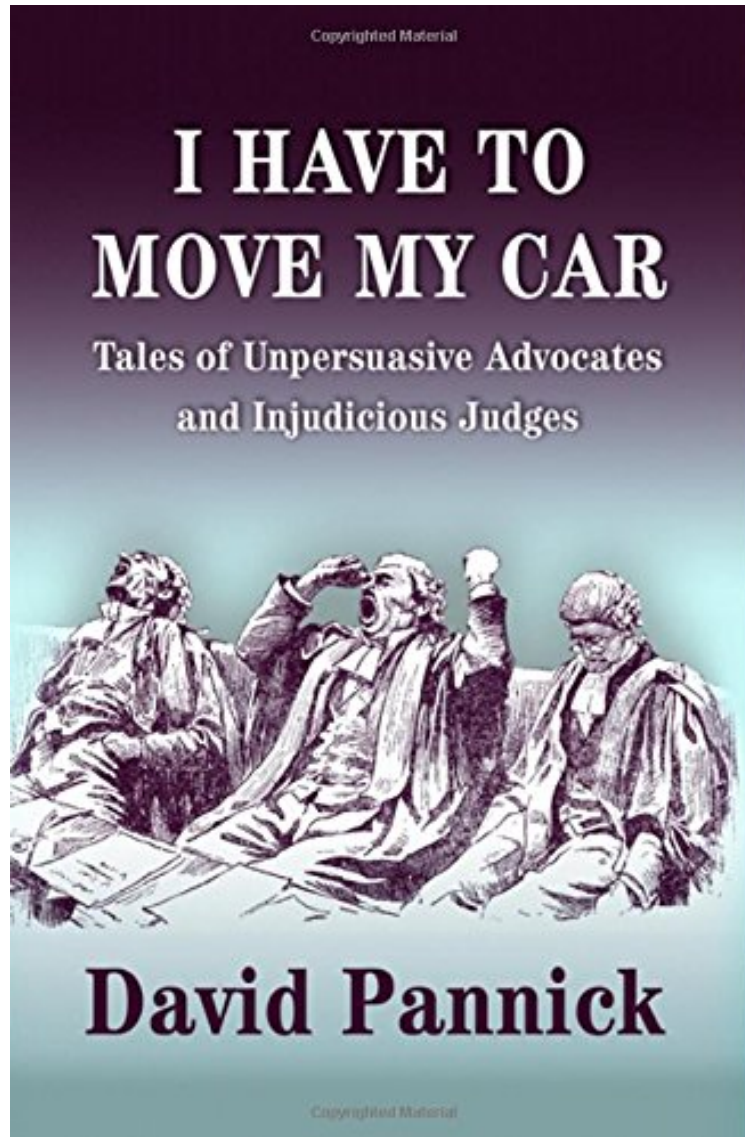


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I Have to Move My Car: Tales of Unpersuasive Advocates and Injudicious Judges

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More Musings on Legal/Judicial Goings-OnBy Ronald H.

ClarkDavid Pannick, QC, Baron Pannick, has an awesome professional background, an Oxford degree and fellowship at All Souls College, as well as involvement in some of the most high profile recent UK cases. Some consider him one of the finest appellate advocates currently at the bar, having argued many cases before the House of Lords and the European Courts of Justice and Human Rights. He also writes serious books addressing topics like sex discrimination, the death penalty, and his primary area of practice, human rights law. Yet, the most serious fellow possesses a most refined sense of humor which he has deployed in a regular column on the law for the Times (of London) and books like "Judges" and "Advocates." However, while the humor flows deep and rich, Pannick also usually has a serious point he is making along with the laughs. This collection of his Times columns (each of which runs a couple of pages) is no exception. One might well apply that old maxim, "truth is stranger than fiction" to these legal going-ons. The first section, with 24 columns, deals with judicial antics, some of which defy the imagination. Lance Ito (of OJ fame), Justice Douglas, Judge Larry Seidlin (who presided over the Anna Nicole Smith burial litigation) and a number of British judges populate this section. What is interesting about this section -- and the remainder of the book as well -- is that some of the most unfortunate examples are drawn from American state and federal courts. The second section of 19 columns turns its attention to some unfortunate actions of lawyers. Pannick's objective in these sections is not hard to discern: is this the best we can expect from judges and counsel engaged in the serious business of trying cases surrounded by the august trappings of the courtroom? I found the third section, on "legal entertainment," probably the most interesting, for the author zeros in on how the trial process is worked over in order to make for entertaining (but highly misleading) television shows. Pannick appears to be particularly fascinated by American programs, such as "LA Law" and "Ally McBeal, and apparently many of his British colleagues share this addiction. The final section on "unusual litigation" includes some more serious matters. All told, 76 columns are included supported by 34 pages of helpful notes and an index. Important fun if you are interested in law and the integrity of the legal process.

There are law books about constructive trusts, the Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1964, and the rule in *Foss v Harbottle*. This law book is not one of them. Writer David Pannick has always been much more interested in unpersuasive advocates and injudicious judges. In this entertaining and sometimes shocking collection of his fortnightly columns from *The Times* (London), Pannick passes judgement on advocates who tell judges that their closing submissions to the jury will not take long because "I would like to move my car before 5 o'clock." Pannick also sentences judges who claim to have invisible dwarf friends sitting with them on the Bench, who order the parties to "stay loose - as a goose," and who signal their rejection of an advocate's argument by flushing a miniature toilet on the bench. Pannick will entertain and inform the reader about judges, lawyers, legal culture, and law reform. *I Have to Move My Car* is an ideal gift for all those who appreciate the lighter side to court life.

These and other stories will inform and delight. Anthony Lo Surdo *Australian Banking and Finance Law Bulletin* March 2009 Some courageous columns were written to expose a wrong or defend a wronged person. The book entertains even as it instructs and enlightens. A. G. Noorani *Frontline* January 2009 An entertaining read. *The Commonwealth Lawyer* Vol. 18 No. 2 August 2009 About the Author David Pannick QC writes a fortnightly legal column in *The Times*. He is a barrister at Blackstone Chambers in the Temple, London, where he specialises in all aspects of public law and human rights. He has been a Fellow of All Souls College since 1978 and is the general editor, with Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC, of *Human Rights Law and Practice* (Butterworths, 1999, 2nd edn March 2004).