

“that’s what she said”

a ford & harrison blog about the popular television series “the office”

There Was Talk of Oatmeal

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Litigation Value: Surprisingly, despite the free-flowing shots and [porcupine quills](#), the legal risks associated with the most recent Dunder Mifflin Sabre holiday party ultimately proved to be relatively low. What “holiday” am I referring to? Well, just ask [Stanley](#). If only more employees could be like [Kevin](#) — not wanting to put anyone out, while content to sate themselves with [apple cinnamon](#) and [maple brown sugar](#) (in one bowl, with [whole milk](#)). But alas, at this time of year, many of us have watched co-workers (over)indulge other appetites.

In Pennsylvania, where our favorite paper company (occasionally) conducts business, Section 4-493 of the [Liquor Code](#) makes it unlawful to “permit any liquor or malt or brewed beverages to be . . . furnished or given, to any person visibly intoxicated.” Long before [Oscar](#) relieved him behind the bar, [Robert](#) should have known that [Erin](#) and [Meredith](#) had reached (or exceeded) their respective limits. But to the credit of both him and [Andy](#), the company’s upper management — such as it is — saw to it that the most impaired team members made it home safely. Call it a best practice.

Of course, if the CEO had given the receptionist more than a [chaste](#), curbside hug, or if the Regional Manager had allowed an intoxicated employee to drive her minivan full of “valuables” home, we’d be looking at the situation in a different light. As it is, the potential workers’ compensation claims flowing from some vigorous [air-guitaring](#) to [Mannheim Steamroller](#) (or was that [Trans-Siberian Orchestra](#)?) are probably manageable.

By the way, have I mentioned that our blog has once again made the [ABA Journal](#)’s annual list of [Blawg 100](#) nominees? We’ve been down this road [before](#), and our always-a-bridesmaid status can be upgraded only if you and those to whom you recommend us get motivated. If it earns us a few more votes, then allow us to endorse Andy’s words of wisdom from the break room: “Be yourselves, have fun, and try not to let it affect your work.”

<http://blogs.hrhero.com/thatswhatsheaid/>