

## Bow Ties

I confess. I like bow ties. They are coming back into style. For regular bow-tie wearers, it is their trademark. But I fear that wearing a bow tie marks the wearer as aloof, smug, and self-important. (If it is a garish bow tie, then clownish.) I suppose if I *\*am\** aloof, smug and self-important, no harm in wearing it then.

What do you think? Would you wear a bow tie to meet a new client? Would you wear a bow tie to court? Would you wear a bow tie in front of a jury?

David B. Newdorf, California

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I always thought a bow tie marked you as a constitutional lawyer.

John Davidson, Pennsylvania

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"But I fear that wearing a bow tie marks the wearer as aloof, smug, and self-important."

Perhaps, ten or twenty years ago, you appeared so. But today, every thirteen year-old headed to the Winter Dance has a bowtie. So now you may get an, "Act your age, why don't ya?"

Personally, I prefer a bow tie. It makes me feel like a cross between Frank Sinatra and James Bond in a tux and Winston Churchill. (And, yes, I do think I drink better when I have a bow tie on (hard to grab a case of PBR with your bowtie on. Perhaps then, I am embodying the very essence of what you were fearful of, i.e., it's not OTHERS that see us as "aloof, smug, and self-important" but rather OURSELVES.))

Kindly,

Jimmy Mac

(This message may have been dictated while driving and may contain mispellings, non-sequiturs, and/or inappropriate language.)

James M. McMullan, Alabama

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The senior partner of the small firm I started out with was both a bow tie wearer and a constitutional lawyer.

One day, I was in court with him. Increasingly exasperated, opposing counsel actually said to the judge that his argument was as phony as the bow tie he was wearing.

Senior partner said nothing. But calmly and expertly while remaining seated, he untied and retied the bow. OC couldn't see it, because he was up at the lectern. But everyone else, including the judge, had to exercise the best self-restraint EVAH not to burst out laughing.

James S. Tyre, California

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I like them. I think it depends on the person whether one can "pull it off," and I don't mean to retie it, either.

Reta McKannan, Alabama

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My grandfather was an attorney for 60 years and didn't own a long tie. I have a handful (some of his old ones). The first few years of my practice I wore them only on his birthday and a few other special occasions, but over the past year or so I wear them more often. I'm probably up to once every other week. I have a little bit of cover in being bold with them because many of my clients and all the attorneys & judges in town knew my grandfather. I usually get a comment about him when I wear one.

As James alluded to, it MUST be a real bow tie. Never, never, never a clip-on.

I think I'll wear one tomorrow.

Andrew O. Mays, Illinois

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I wear bow ties often. I am smug, aloof, and self-important. I'd be those things without the bow tie.

My advice to people who want to wear them, is that if you're self-conscious about wearing it, you won't be able to pull it off anyway.

Cheers,

Matthew Buck

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One of my close friends from law school wears bow ties regularly. I think he is very self-confident, but not arrogant. And I agree, if you wear them with confidence they are wonderful.

Jamie Roskie

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That is a fantastically wonderful story. I always thought that the best use of a tie was to hang the person who invented them. But while that might work for a long tie, I don't think it would have been feasible for a bow tie. So, thanks to your story, I'm content to let bow tie wearers create good stories, and will continue to wish the inventor of the long tie had hanged himself or herself with it before it went public. What a useless use of textiles!

John T. Mitchell, Washington, DC

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Great story.

Many of us I could have done that. In fact, I did it a couple of times

myself.

Norm

All the best,

Norman R. Solberg, Japan

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From the female perspective, I always appreciate a good bow tie on a gentleman. I think they are particularly stylish on Southern men (even if those Southern men have relocated to Northern locales).

I think they project confidence, style, and a small bit of whimsy, but not necessarily "aloof, smug, or self-important."

One of my local colleagues used to wear one, but he was uncomfortable with the buttons on his shirt showing while wearing a tie. He would solve the problem by adding a vest. I do not think this is necessary.

Size and tasteful pattern/color are key, and of course, always wear a real one that you have tied yourself.

(For the record, I really don't think smugness or self-importance are good qualities for attorneys to have at all. We have ethical duties of collegiality. There's no reason to be a jerk.)

Monica Elkinton, Alaska

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One thing to consider: how it looks. Not everyone who can wear a bow tie should. I don't mind bow ties but with my body shape, it looks a weird if I am not in a tux. It messes with my bodily proportions. Of course, I am not necessarily normal.

Brian J. Hughes, Massachusetts

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I'm a bowtie wearing lawyer myself. I'm also a crazy sock wearing kind of guy!! I get my socks at nicelaundry.com and match my ties or bowties with my socks. The judges and masters here all know about my love of both and will ask to see what socks I'm wearing on any specific day! It's actually quite nice to be able to be identified as "that guy" and have the ability to make the judges smile!

We have one attorney here at my office that wears bowties 363 days of the year (no lie...).. The only days he doesn't...1) April Fools and 2) Halloween.....

David Crosson, Pennsylvania

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Wouldn't happen to have been this fellow, would it?

<http://nsunews.nova.edu/law-professor-recognized-national-journal-25th-year-rogow/>

He is a constitutional lawyer.

Ronald Jones, Florida

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Nope. Your guy is still alive. My guy, after whom [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_Selvin\\_Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Selvin_Award) was named, died in 1987.

James S. Tyre

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So, I second the nicelaundry.com for socks. There is nothing funner than getting compliments from strangers as you wrestle through security @ court. They are all I have in my 'dressy' sock drawer.

I am not a bow tie guy, but for those that are, try seaplaneshirts.com  
Some real original stuff.

-drew

Drew Winghart, California

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Another option for bow ties is : <http://www.beautiesltd.com/>

Sincerely yours,

Michael D. Caccavo, Vermont

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Will bolo ties be the next big thing?

jennifer j. rose, Mexico

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After he retired, my father (of blessed memory) took to bolo ties. He was born and raised in NYC and lived in Los Angeles, so he was not a real cowboy. He just enjoyed the Western look, including boots, Western shirts, big decorative belt buckles with a bald eagle. When I was growing up, he wore a neck tie every day to work. He would only wear a bow tie with a tux.

David B. Newdorf

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In my experience, bolo ties are little things...

-Rick

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr., North Carolina

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I have been wearing exclusively bow ties for about five years. While I have a large collection of traditional ties and am just building a collection of bows; I think it offers a bit of diversity from the norm. It is interesting; after wearing a bow tie for about a year, another lawyer who practices in the same areas as I did came up and said "I've always wanted

to learn how to tie a bow tie" So I showed him and he videotaped me; now he has become so accustomed to wearing them that he is known as the bow tied lawyer in our area.

At this stage in my life, I have decided that the mantra to live by is to wear what you enjoy, practice the areas you enjoy. Life is too short to not enjoy what you do or even something as insignificant as what you wear.

Todd Engel, New York

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I have a 5 or so bow ties, building a collection slowly.

Most go nicely with my seersucker suit.....which in Indiana, I can wear approximately 3 days / year.

Jonathan A. Watson, Indiana

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I'm with you Todd!

Sent from my iPad

Mary Ellen Leslie, Ohio

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I was inspired by this thread. I went out this weekend, bought a bow tie and learned how to tie it. I walked into court this morning, took off my

coat, and immediately the judge says "What a distinguished looking bow tie you have there." I think I'm pulling it off.

Eric Dawson, New York

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Where is the "LIKE" button on this thread?

Nanci Bockelie, Utah

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Even though I was never that guy, there is something about a bow tie - other than with a tux - that makes me want to stuff the bow tie wearer into a locker.

Having total Revenge of the Nerds moment.

Jeff Curl, California

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AGAIN! I report from the margins. As the tread grew, I realized I had to confess there was a time when I wore only wool ties--mostly purchased as solid color, then personalized by simple, hand sewn figures. Others were wool challis prints. Indeed, for many years there was a shop (Pendelton Mills) in the arcade of the Palmer House hotel in Chicago that sold only woolens where I made all such purchases.

I share the general thought that bow ties are for those "to the manor born"  
as Emily Post once said about eating spaghetti with a fork and spoon.  
(Well kids, newfangled stuff like Italian food must be approached with  
caution.

As for socks: black socks never grow dirty--sometimes a bit stiff.

But whathehell, Archie.....

John Page, Florida

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Just a thought to justify stylish bow ties and "defend yourself " against any perception of snooti-ness...

Physicians ( and other males (and maybe even some females) in the medical field) often wear bow ties  
as opposed to "regular" long ties for safety reasons. Just as with stethoscopes, anything long hanging  
around the neck can be used to try to strangle the very person trying to help a patient. It seems to me  
the same line of thinking may be used for those in the legal profession. Just a thought...

Amy (who thinks bow ties can be classy and not pretentious)

Amy J. Holzman

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When I was a security guard, they gave us clip on ties for that very  
reason.

Bruce Wingate, New York

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That actually happened to me once: I was standing outside of my door at my old office, this elderly lady gets out of the car and starts walking and trips on the sidewalk, Bam, she's down on the ground, I run over to try to help her up and she grabs me by my tie and I'm trying to get her to let go.

There's a lesson there, Either don't wear a tie or don't try to help little old ladies who've tripped and fallen.

Ronald Jones

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Any opinions on Mo's Bows (bow ties)? <http://mosbowsmemphis.com/>

Gerald L. Gilliard, Washington, D.C.

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I am not a bow tie person, but what I hear about the company and see from their designs they look nice. I hope they get into regular ties one day.

I think Mo received one of the BEST deals on Shark Tank. Did not give up any of his company and has a Shark mentoring him and helping him where he needs it.

Phil A. Taylor, Massachusetts

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My mother dressed me in a bow tie as a child. Resisted them in my teenage years, but returned to them in law school. Made them a regular part of my wardrobe (as in weekly wear on selected days regardless of calendar) 5 years back, have about 50 or so. Selectively wear them now. It's always nice to have one on first appearance and the judge also wears one.

Michael A. Huerta, New York

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Speaking of bow ties, it seems that hats are coming back. Maybe it is because more men shave their heads now, but the number of hats at the courthouse seems to be growing

Robert "Robby" W. Hughes, Jr., Georgia

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Cowboy hat PLUS pony tail!!!!!! ????????????

John Page

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I hope this prompts a return to hat racks in restaurants. It's a pain if there's no extra chair at the table to find a place for hubby to put his hat while we eat. And at the theater, as well. Hat racks have all but disappeared!

C.

Cynthia Hannah-White, Hawaii

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Dare I remind of somewhat more robust, Coat-tree? Known at least to us Northern boys.

Also, I remember Florida transition--when meeting with architect to review plans for our first office--I asked: "Where was coat closet?" Looked up to see bewildered faces.

Too soon old. Too late smart!

John Page

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In Mexico, the better restaurants all have short racks, about the height of the top of a chair back, to hang purses and hats. The waiters bring them to each table. I'm become so accustomed to them that I'm always surprised when Estadounidense visitors make such a big deal out of them. And I miss them when I leave Mexico.

Coats? If it's cold enough to wear them outside, it's cold enough to wear them inside. And we do.

jennifer j. rose

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I started wearing a hat a few years ago. My wife is tolerating it.

Saturday we were in Macy's and there were bow ties on display. I jokingly

said, 'hey, what do you think, should I get a bow tie?" The look said  
"don't think about it'. LOL

Sincerely yours,

Michael D. Caccavo

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Having shaved my head 8 years ago; I do tend to wear a hat. In Syracuse  
however the hats tend to be more function over fashion during the winter,  
but I do have some dress hats. I tend toward the duster/fedora type or the  
newsboy caps. Summertime I wear hats as well because it helps in keeping  
the sweat from dripping down my face.

Todd Engel

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