

# Strange & Unusual Cases

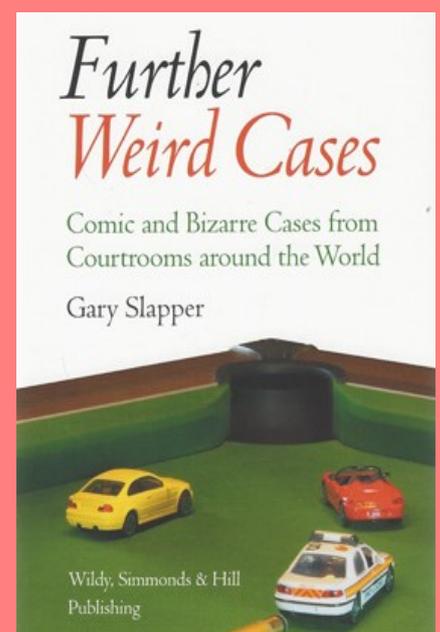
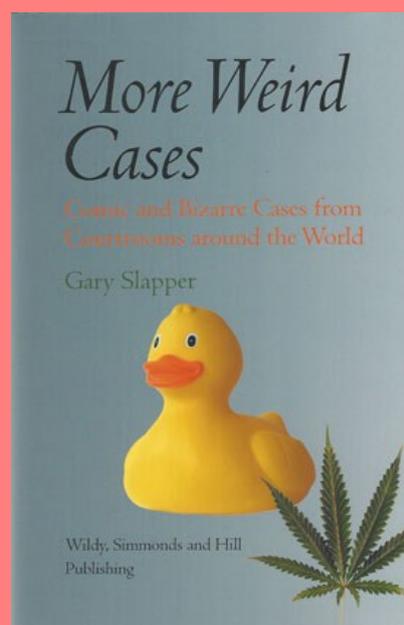
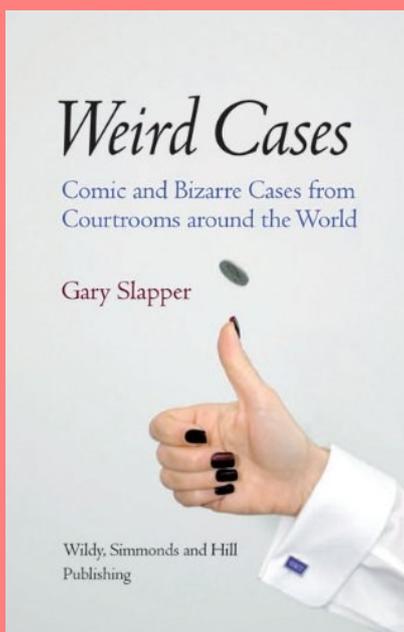
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Inner Temple Library

# Strange and Unusual Cases



The Inner Temple Library holds three books by Gary Slapper detailing weird cases from around the world. Cases include a man charged with “illegally feeding an alligator” having had his hand bitten off, a man arrested on suspicion of “hiding pies” to throw at the Canadian Prime Minister, a 9-year old New Zealand girl called “Talulah Does The Hula From Hawaii” who was taken into the court’s guardianship to enforce a name change, a duck farmer pleading “ducking necessity” in defence of his possession of marijuana (for deworming his ducks), and a drugs conspiracy trial aborted after jury members were noticed taking notes vertically, or rather playing Sudoku.



The Weird Cases books by Gary Slapper can be found in Legal Misc., Gallery Room B.

# Can you spot the fake case?

As an April Fool's Day quiz, we asked our Facebook followers to spot the fake case from a list of four. See if you can identify it from the list below, and discover the answer on the next page.

1. The plaintiff sued for slander, complaining that he had been called a highwayman. The court formed the view that he was indeed a highwayman, and he was arrested in court and subsequently tried, found guilty, and hanged.

2. The Court of Appeal held that the owner of a cat that strayed and killed his neighbour's pigeons was not liable because this was normal behaviour for a cat.

3. A stockbroker sued for libel because an advertisement for a yo-yo had included a character with the same surname as him, and other stockbrokers had made fun of him as a result. The judge held that there was no case to put to a jury.

4. A belly dancer was issued with a fixed penalty notice for leaving her car engine running while carrying her props into a venue. She successfully argued that she needed to leave the engine running to keep the snakes she used as part of her act warm, and prevent them falling asleep.

# Answers

In fact, they are all genuine. It was, after all, intended as an April Fool.

1. Anon., reported by Holt CJ in *Johnson v. Browning* (1704) 6 Mod 216. This can be found in the Old Reports collection in Room C of the library.

2. *Buckle v. Holmes* [1926] 2 KB 125. Law Reports, Room D.

3. *Blennerhasset v. Novelty Sales Services, Limited*, *The Times* 19th May 1933. This can be found on The Times Digital Archive, accessible from any of the computers in the library.

4. Anon., reported in *Slapper, G* (2010). *Weird Cases*. London: Wildy, Simmonds and Hill Publishing, pp. 90-91. Legal Misc., Gallery Room B.

Visit the Inner Temple Library to read about more strange and unusual cases.

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