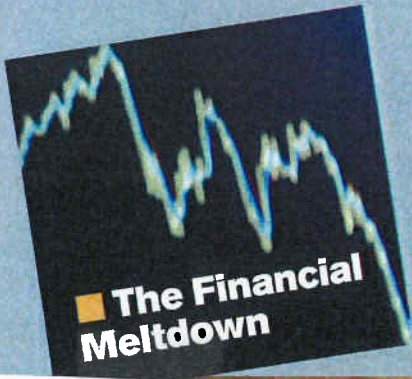


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National Journal

Other Lives



The Real Deal

Kilpatrick Stockton partner **Erik Huey** confesses that he was initially a little worried about what people would think of "Cletus McCoy"—his rather more dissolute alter ego in the cowboy-punk band the Surreal McCoys. Huey and his fellow McCoys—Billy Saul, Clint, Elvis, and Goat Boy (who also have professional day jobs in other cities)—decided in 2005 to resurrect the band they began as law students at Notre Dame. They have played in Washington twice; tour other cities over long weekends; and, this summer, released their first CD, *The Bottle & the*

Gun. Huey, 41, says that his two lives have ended up meshing rather well overall, despite the occasional conference calls that interrupt rehearsals. Colleagues and clients, a growing number of whom have caught various performances, "think it's great," he says. It helps that he has carved out a niche in entertainment law, where clients—including the Screen Actors Guild—appreciate performers. One of Huey's former clients is assisting with another of his creative pursuits. Actress Fran Drescher is helping to raise funds to produce his screenplay about a boy who came of age outside Pittsburgh amid the decline of the steel mills—much as did Huey, a miner's son. His right-brained activities have brought another unexpected payoff: The attractive Irish painter he met while playing at the New York City pub she owns became his fiancé in April—after Huey proposed to her onstage.

—Julie Kosterlitz