

## **STYLE CITINGS: A MONTHLY LOOK AT LAWYERS AND PERSONAL STYLE**

### **SoCal Lawyer M.C. Sungaila Shops the World, Following Fashion over Fads**

BY STEPHANIE FRANCIS WARD

**M.C. Sungaila, appellate lawyer, Encino, Calif.**

*"Almost everything in the world is made in Hong Kong, and the styles are usually at least a year or two ahead of the U.S."*

**You're wearing open-toed shoes. Do you wear them to work often?**

Sometimes I do, but just in the office. Part of being an appellate lawyer is being in the office a lot. There's a lot of reading in the library and meeting with other lawyers, but not as much court time. Plus, I'm in California.

**How would you describe your look?**

I would say it's a combination of feminine elegance, edgy and cosmopolitan. It's kind of a reflection of my travel.

**How often do you travel?**

I take at least two big trips a year.

**How much time is spent shopping during your travels?**

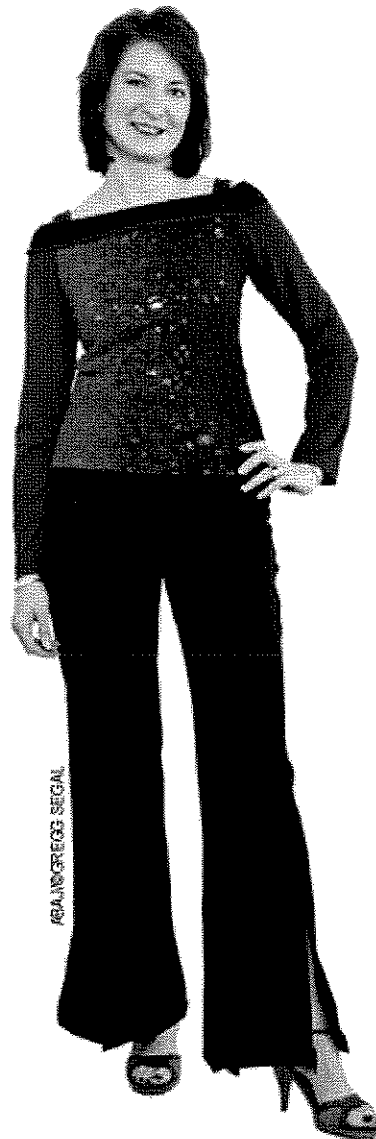
If I'm in Hong Kong, which is a shopping mecca, I'd say 80 percent of my time involves shopping. Almost everything in the world is made in Hong Kong, and the styles are usually at least a year or two ahead of the U.S. In London and New York, probably 30 percent [of my time is spent shopping].

**Where do you like to shop in the U.S.?**

Neiman Marcus, sample sales and with friends of mine who are designers. I also like to bargain-shop at Ross [Dress for Less], Marshall's and T.J. Maxx. My favorite thing is to wear an \$8 Ross shirt with an Armani suit.

**You've done a lot of amicus briefs for feminist causes. How do feminism and fashion mix for you?**

Fashion and style are just a way of expressing yourself. Some people are slaves to trends,



but I think of fashion as being an expression of an individual. So to that extent, I guess it's independence more than feminism. I remember going to a party where everyone had gotten the memo that the thing to wear was a certain brand of jeans with a certain brand of top. I didn't get the memo, but that's OK—I didn't want to.

©2006 ABA Journal

© The American Bar Association. All rights reserved. [ABA Privacy Statement](#)  
01/27/2006 07:35 PM

ABAJOURNAL EREPORT, Friday, January 6, 2006.

STYLE CITINGS: A MONTHLY LOOK AT LAWYERS AND PERSONAL STYLE

By Stephanie Francis Ward

Reprinted by Permission.