To the Bag:

Bryan Garner’s amusing article on law reviews, “A Legal Lexicographer Looks at Law Reviews*,” (spring 2013) overstates things on page 283 where he reports that I “undertook a personal campaign to persuade [my] Second Circuit colleagues to use the word gastonette in print” and that “[a] few did so over the next 20 years.” I might have mentioned my coinage of the word to one or two colleagues, but did not urge them to use the word, and in fact none of them did. A Westlaw search reveals that the only use of the word in a judicial opinion is my own opinion in In re McLean Industries, Inc., 857 F.2d 88, 90 (2d Cir. 1988). It is also used in Alexandra D. Lahav, “Recovering the Social Value of Jurisdictional Redundancy,” 82 Tulane L. Rev. 2369, 2387 (June 2008).

If my friend Prof. Garner was not so averse to footnotes, he would have added one referring your readers to “Birth of a Word,” 13 Green Bag 2d 169 (Winter 2010), which recounts the circumstances under which gastonette was coined.

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