

Hot Doggers

'I wish I were in an Oscar Mayer wiener' | Marcel Strigberger

By Marcel Strigberger



Marcel Strigberger

(January 24, 2020, 8:52 AM EST) -- OMG! Or rather OMW! Oscar Mayer Wiener! Here's the big scoop.

Oscar Mayer, the meat giant, has the call out for applications for drivers of its wienermobiles. These are 27-foot-long hot dogs on wheels, that travel all over touting the Oscar Mayer Wiener brand. It is apparently a coveted position for which last year there were over 7,000 applicants of which only 12 were chosen. They are called "hotdoggers." (You cannot say Oscar Mayer is not imaginative.)

The lucky candidates get trained at a facility called "Hot Dog High." A spokesperson noted that given the competition, one has a better chance of getting admitted into an Ivy League university.

Any lawyers considering a career switch? Over my 40 plus years of practice, I ran across plenty of colleagues who were disillusioned with the practice of law. Given that much of the glamour of lawyers is questionable, I can see this position as being of interest to many of counsel.

After all, these hotdoggers are mini celebrities. They pull into some town with their wienermobile, where they participate in media and social events and they get greeted by oodles of screaming fans.

In all my time as a working lawyer, I for one never got greeted by anyone when I used to pull up in my Camry at the Newmarket courthouse. (Actually, I would occasionally get greeted by someone screaming over a much-coveted parking spot.)

Even Shakespeare might have good things to say about the OMW position. I can't imagine the bard saying, "First, let's kill all the hotdoggers."

I can however see a number of legal issues or situations arising out of this job. Firstly, there is the wienermobile itself. What if there's an accident? There are many legal cases on insurance coverage, revolving about whether a certain vehicle is an automobile. I can easily foresee some insurance company arguing that it is not, as there is nothing in the *Insurance Act* stating that insurance coverage is mandatory for a mammoth sausage.

They might argue it is more of a long house, possibly covered for fire, theft and flood. Should a large vat of mustard accidentally overflow, the insurer might entertain a claim.



Oscar

Mayer says the wienermobile training facility is harder to get into than an ivy league school.

The good thing is, in the event of a road accident, it is most unlikely the operator would hit and expect to remain anonymous and take off. It is certainly unlikely a police officer arriving at the scene, would bother asking the victim, "Did you get his licence number?"

Another legal issue is given that it is harder to land a position here than at an Ivy League university, there is a possibility that some affluent celebrity parents may want to cheat. What's to stop them from slipping a bribe along the way to help their kids become Hotdoggers? Worth risking a jail sentence? You never know.

I also see employment issues. At Hot Dog High the lucky candidates will be taught numerous hot dog puns and slogans, like "cut the mustard" etc., which they'll have to utter in front of their hot dog craving audiences all over. Sooner or later I can see some of these guys cracking under the stress of having to constantly sing, "Oh I wish I was an Oscar Mayer wiener."

Practising law can be stressful but no lawyer I know can possibly experience a work stressor of this magnitude.

And will the candidates have to continually sample those franks in front of the gathering crowds? If they don't is that a ground for dismissal? Actually, worse than that would be the hotdogger who really rebels and goes all out imploring that Oscar Mayer should go vegan.

What happens to him? Cause for instant dismissal? "Hand in your tongs."

Maybe even worse. They would probably banish him to Hot Dog Island.

Marcel Strigberger retired from his Greater Toronto Area litigation practice and continues the more serious business of humorous author and speaker. Visit www.marcelshumour.com.

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