

[BigLaw Counsel Dies in Fall From Manhattan High-Rise Apartment](#)

Kenneth Freeling, of counsel at Covington & Burling and former Dewey & LeBoeuf litigation partner, died in a fall from his ninth-floor New York apartment Thursday, according to reports.

[The New York Post](#) quoted police reports saying Freeling, 59, had a history of mental illness and reported that Freeling had jumped to his death. He lived on the ninth floor of the building and landed on a second-floor terrace in view of witnesses in the building's gym.

[Above the Law](#) reports that Freeling's son, Samuel, committed suicide in 2013.

[Read the NY Post article.](#)

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[Lawyer Who Died in Parking Garage Fire Worked at BigLaw Firm](#)

A badly burned body found on the floor of a Chicago parking garage early Tuesday has been identified as Louis S. Cohen, of

counsel with Foley & Lardner LLP, [reports *The Chicago Tribune*](#).

Police were investigating the death of the 60-year-old real estate attorney, officials said.

Cohen joined Foley & Lardner in Chicago eight months ago, after working with DLA Piper for the previous 27 years, Foley says on its website.

Reporter [Rosemary Regina Sobol](#) writes that an autopsy Wednesday was pending and did not determine a cause and manner for Cohen's death, the Cook County medical examiner's office said.

[Read the *Chicago Tribune* article.](#)

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[Attorney Brian 'Strong Arm' Loncar's Death Ruled Accidental Cocaine Overdose](#)

Prominent Dallas lawyer Brian Loncar, known for his TV identity "The Strong Arm," died last month due to an accidental cocaine overdose, officials said Thursday, according to a [Dallas Morning News report](#).

Loncar's cause of death was the "toxic effect of cocaine," a spokeswoman for the Dallas County medical examiner. Hypertension and cardiovascular disease were also listed as

secondary factors, she said.

“The personal injury lawyer, 56, was found dead in his new Rolls-Royce Wraith on Dec. 4, days after burying his youngest daughter, Grace Loncar, who had killed herself at age 16,” writes *Dallas Morning News* reporter [Naomi Martin](#).

[Read the *Dallas News* article.](#)

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[The Top Texas Legal Stories of 2016](#)

From the legal debate over bathrooms, to the battle over renaming a Houston law school, to a billion-dollar-plus jury award, Texas was home to some of the nation’s most intriguing legal news of 2016.

The staff of Androvett Legal Media & Marketing compiled a [list of the year’s top Texas legal stories](#).

Those stories included the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in West Texas in February, the election defeat of Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson, the on-again-off-again charges against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the fight for accreditation for the UNT Dallas College of Law, the Baylor sexual assault scandal, and more.

[Read about the top 10 stories.](#)

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[Securing Assent: The Internet Twist of Electronic Contracts](#)



If any area of the law could be shielded from the all-consuming influence of the Internet, it ought to be the age-old law of contracts, writes [Mark Sableman](#) in Thompson & Coburn's blog, Internet Law Twists & Turns. He points out that basic elements of contract law, like requirements of offer, acceptance, and consideration, don't change because of the Internet.

But courts have been struggling with one crucial point involving electronic contracts: "When and how does a user agree to a contract electronically? This crucial element of contract formation – manifestation of assent – is the Internet twist for contract making."

"Getting clear assent in real time, however, isn't always enough. You also may need to prove at a later date that consent occurred. Your ordering software should record customer activity, such as the click-through consents. And you should retain records of your past website forms and contract terms, so that you can recreate those that were in place at the time of any contested transaction," Sableman writes.

[Read the article.](#)

Provost Umphrey Law Firm Attorneys Named to Best Lawyers in America



The Best Lawyers in America has named 13 attorneys from Beaumont, Texas-based [Provost Umphrey Law Firm, L.L.P.](#), among the country's best, including firm partner D'Juana Parks, who was named the city's top lawyer for plaintiffs' personal injury cases.

Provost Umphrey has represented people in cases involving serious personal injuries, wrongful death and unfair business practices for more than 40 years, the firm said in a release. Their clients include victims of toxic exposure, dangerous pharmaceutical drugs, defective products, unsafe workplaces, runaway 18-wheeler accidents, unfair payment schemes and many others.

In addition to Parks, Provost Umphrey partners Bryan O. Blevins Jr., Edward Fisher, Joe J. Fisher II, James E. Payne and David P. Wilson were named among the country's best in their respective practice areas.

The firm's release continues:

Firm attorneys Aaryn K. Giblin and Colin D. Moore earned selection based on their work in plaintiffs' product liability litigation. Fellow firm attorney Christopher T. Kirchmer was named to the exclusive guide for his

representation of plaintiffs in mass tort litigation, class actions, and personal injury and product liability litigation. Matthew C. Matheny earned high marks for his work on behalf of plaintiffs in mass tort litigation, class actions and personal injury litigation. Darren L. Brown was recognized for his work for plaintiffs in personal injury and product liability litigation. J. Keith Hyde earned a spot based on his work for plaintiffs in personal injury cases.

Firm founder Walter Umphrey also was named to *Best Lawyers*, marking the 25th year he has earned the prestigious honor. The 2017 Provost Umphrey honorees, including every equity partner in the firm, represent a combined 60 years of *Best Lawyers* recognition for excellence and success.

Best Lawyers is widely recognized as one of the leading guides to the U.S. legal profession by ranking the nation's leading lawyers in various practice areas based on exhaustive peer-review surveys submitted by tens of thousands of the top attorneys from across the country.

Protecting Confidential Information in the Financial

Services Industry

☒ Seyfarth Shaw attorneys will focus on trade secret and client relationship considerations in the banking and finance industry [in a webinar](#) scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, at 1 p.m. Eastern time.

This event is Seyfarth's sixth installment in its series of 2014 Trade Secret Webinars.

Presenters are Seyfarth lawyers J. Scott Humphrey, Jason P. Stiehl, Rebecca Woods.

Topics will include:

- Practical steps financial institutions can implement to protect trade secrets and client relationships.
- What should you do if your trade secrets are improperly removed or disclosed, or if your former employee is violating his/her agreements.
- How do you prosecute a case against a former employee who is a FINRA member.
- The impact of the Protocol for Broker Recruiting on trade secrets and client relationships

[Register for the webinar.](#)

Energy News

Working on the Web: Delivering Legal Services Online

☒ Avvo has posted a free on-demand webinar discussing the primary ethics issues that may arise when selling or delivering legal services online.

The webinar covers online advertising and fee-splitting: A review of the first amendment considerations and limitations surrounding online referrals.

It also discusses the ethics of online Q&A: How does answering questions online from people who may be out-of-state mesh with state-based practice limitations?

Another topic is online “deals” and unbundled services: To what extent do online deals or other unbundled offers implicate ethics rules around advertising, trust accounts, excessive fees, conflicts and the duty of competence?

On its website, Avvo says the webinar also covers technology & security: What special considerations around technology and cloud-based applications are in play when serving clients online?

[Watch the on-demand webinar.](#)