# ‘Immoral and Barbaric’: Cancer-Surviving Judge Blasts Insurer For Denying Lawyer’s Treatment

*News*

One judge, who felt he had to recuse himself and who was a prostate cancer survivor himself, made it clear how he felt about the case.

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# CEO of OxyContin-Maker Says Bankruptcy is ‘an Option’ as Company Faces Opioid Lawsuits

*News*

Declaring bankruptcy could halt litigation against the company, bankruptcy lawyers said, and it can be more difficult for plaintiffs to secure judgments in bankruptcy court than in civil court.

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# Roundup Cancer Claims Could

# Come Down to a Feather's Weight

***News***

Roundup, not hepatitis, caused the plaintiff's cancer, his lawyers argued at a critical juncture in the company's second U.S. trial over the popular herbicide.

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# Johnson & Johnson Acted as Opioid 'Kingpin,' Oklahoma Attorney General Says

***News***

The Oklahoma case is set to be the first in the nation to go before a jury that could determine pharmaceutical companies' role in the nation's opioid epidemic and whether Big Pharma should pay for it.

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# Sixth Circuit: Under Contract Law, Whirlpool Not Obligated to Provide Lifetime Retiree

# Healthcare Benefits

***Insight***

The court found that the CBAs covering the retirees lacked clear, affirmative language that Whirlpool had an obligation to fund their health benefits after the expiration of the agreements' general durational clause.

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# Lawsuit: Trump Family-Planning Rule 'Politicizes' Medicine

***News***

The new Department of Health and Human Services rule would prohibit family planning clinics funded by the federal Title X program from making abortion referrals.

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# Michael Best Adds Litigator Victoria Lovato to Denver Office

***News***

Michael Best announced that Victoria Lovato has joined the firm's Litigation Practice Group as senior counsel in Denver.

# Roberts Again Sides With Liberal Supreme Court Justices in Disagreeing With Lower Court Interpretations

***News***

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. has sided with liberal Supreme Court justices in cases involving the death penalty and abortion access, reports *The Washington Post*.

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# Opioid Epidemic Lawsuits Take Strategy from Epic Big Tobacco Litigation

***Insight***

Trial lawyers are demanding that manufacturers and companies along the prescription drug supply chain pay sweeping economic penalties for damages caused by opioid drugs.

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# Bionpharma Fails to Get Rival's GC Disqualified in Supply Spat

*News*

Bloomberg Law reports that Generic drug distributor P&L Development LLC's general counsel and an outside firm may continue to represent P&L in its breach-of-contract and fraud suit against Bionpharma Inc., a federal court in North Carolina ruled.

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# Biglaw Associate With ALS is in Race Against Time to Find a Cure

**News**

After his diagnosis, Brian Wallach returned to Skadden Arps, the firm where he started his career, and he was welcomed back by the firm with open arms.

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# Opioid Overdoses Overtake Car

# Accidents on List of Preventable Deaths

***News***

The National Safety Council's recently released report on preventable injury and fatality statistics, reveals that accidental opioid overdoses have overtaken car accidents as a leading cause of deaths among Americans.

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# Bradley Adds Veteran Healthcare Lawyers to Dallas Office

***News***

Healthcare lawyers Wendi Campbell Rogaliner and Scott Schardt have joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP's newly opened Dallas office.

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# Why Johnson & Johnson May Not Have to Pay Its $4.7 Billion Court Verdict

***News***

While a $4.7 billion jury verdict against Johnson & Johnson in

July was eye-popping, J&J may pay far less, or nothing, reports Bloomberg. No verdict of that size has survived appeal.

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# FisherBroyles Adds Health & Pharmacy Law Partner Janna King in Houston

***News***

Janna King has joined FisherBroyles, LLP as a partner in the firm's Houston office and Health & Pharmacy Law practice group.

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# Jordan, Lynch & Cancienne Wins Take-Nothing Decisions in Texas, Louisiana

***News***

Trial lawyers with Jordan, Lynch & Cancienne PLLC scored big defense wins recently for two separate clients, securing a quick summary judgment for The Dow Chemical Company in Texas and prevailing in a jury trial for Union Carbide Corporation in New Orleans.

# Judge Who Tossed Obamacare Has Had More Than His Share of Contentious, High-Profile Cases

***News***

Judge Reed O’Connor has become a go-to judge for Republicans over certain heated national social issues such as health care and transgender rights, reports *The Dallas Morning News*.

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# Contract Review Tips for Long-Term Care Facilities

***Insight***

A long-term care facility can execute contracts with many different vendors including food product and service vendors, laundry and linen providers, IT companies, and others, points out a post from Poyner Spruill.

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# Oklahoma Jury Hits Health Insurer Aetna with $25.5 Million Verdict

***News***

*The Oklahoman* reports that jurors wanted to send a message to health insurer Aetna after hearing how the company's overworked doctors denied an Oklahoma cancer patient's claim for coverage for proton beam therapy.

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# Hospital System Fires General Counsel Amid Alleged Compliance Violations

***News***

The Broward Health board fired its general counsel Lynn Barrett as the taxpayer-supported health system continues to struggle after a series of state and federal investigations related to alleged overspending, kickbacks and open-government law violations, reports Modern Healthcare.