# Syngenta MDL Judge Tears Up Lawyers' Contingency Contracts in $500 Million Fee Ruling

*News*

A U.S. district judge has set aside individual contingency fee contracts that some plaintiffs' lawyers had in place for clients in a multidistrict litigation, according to a Reuters report.

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# Lawyer Who 'Won't Take No for an Answer' is Suspended for Two Years

*News*

Tom Gannon persisted in filing a total 46 appeals in the state court system in a small civil dispute for a client, despite multiple denials and admonitions from the court.

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# Parties Must Proceed to

# Arbitration Despite Unavailability of Arbitration Forum Specifically Named in the Contract

*News*

An Ohio appellate court has addressed an issue that arose when an arbitrator specified in a contract is no longer available.

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# Federal Courts Run Out of Cash Next Friday. Here’s What Happens Then

*News*

During the shutdown, the system can spend money left over from fees and other sources to run through Jan. 11.

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# In 8-Month Tenure, Non-Elected NY AG Was Leading

# Trump Antagonist

***News***

Barbara Underwood was an apolitical force in New York, quietly serving as solicitor general before getting an unexpected promotion to become the state’s first female attorney general, writes the Associated Press.

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# Davis Wright Tremaine Leads Legal Team for BuzzFeed in Trump Dossier Defamation Case

***News***

A team from Davis Wright Tremaine successfully prevailed in a defamation suit against BuzzFeed brought by Russian businessman Aleksej Gubarev, the firm announced in a release.

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# Legal Technology & Innovation Middle East 2019

***Event, Feb. 18, 2019, Dubai***

The Legal Technology & Innovation Middle East 2019 conference will be in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Feb. 18, 2019.

# 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.

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# 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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# Federal Judge Wants You to Know She’s Sick And Tired Of Whiny Lawyers

***News***

There’s a patent infringement lawsuit in Houston that’s been going on since 2011, and the honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore can’t take it anymore, notes Quartz.

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# CBS Lawyer’s Strategy Backfired in Leadup to $9.5M Settlement of Actress’s Sexual Harassment Claim

***News***

Mark Engstrom, the chief compliance officer at CBS, was identified as the lawyer who released the outtakes.

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# Federal Judge – Deemed ‘Unqualified’ – Becomes First

# in U.S. History Confirmed By Senate Tiebreaker

***News***

Vice President Mike Pence cast the deciding vote in favor of Jonathan Kobes after senators split 50-50 on his confirmation.

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# Thinking Like a Reporter to Promote Your Legal Case

***Insight***

The easier you can make it for reporters and their colleagues to do their jobs, the more likely you are to get them interested in your case, points out Bruce Vincent of Muse Communications..

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# Download: Top E-Discovery Case Law Rulings from 2018

***Insight***

The white paper from Exterro provides a quick recap of the most important and influential e-discovery case law rulings from 2018.

# *National Law Journal* Names Chrysta Castañeda to 2018 Elite Trial Lawyers List

***News***

Chrysta Castaneda has been awarded *The National Law Journal*'s Elite Trial Lawyers Award for 2018.

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# Court Warns: Disbarment for Anonymous Online Posts is Lesson for Other Lawyers

***News***

As a prosecutor, Sal Perricone posted more than 2,600 comments on nola.com, the website of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, between November 2007 and March 2012.

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# Two High-Profile Law Firms

# File Class Action Blaming Utility Company for Deadly Camp Fire

*News*

The Edelson law firm and Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein filed the suit in state court in San Francisco on behalf of seven named plaintiffs.

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# Arbitrators' Award Boosts Asbestos Settlement to $178.5 Million for Workers

*News*

The award, from a three-judge arbitration panel, comes in addition to a previously agreed-upon $38 million settlement in the case.

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# Arbitrator's Undisclosed Relationships Sink Oil and

# Gas Awards

***News***

The court found that the arbitrator lied when he “claimed that he did not have professional or social connections with the parties or witnesses.”

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# The Rise of Analytics: How Legal Technology Finally Got a Seat in the Boardroom

***Insight***

Advances in legal technology – in particular artificial intelligence technologies – are giving legal more prominence within the corporation and helping make the department’s strategic value more tangible to the C-suite and the board.