Hogan Lovells Adds Real Estate Lawyer Lea Ann Fowler in Denver

News

Hogan Lovells announces that Lea Ann Fowler will join the firm’s Real Estate practice as a partner in the Denver office.

J. David Hitchcock Joins Buchalter As Shareholder in Los Angeles Office

News

David Hitchcock has joined Buchalter Nemer’s Los Angeles office as a shareholder in the Real Estate practice group.

Akerman Expands Real Estate Group with Addition of Four Lawyers in Denver

News

Akerman LLP announced the the addition of partners Allison Nelson and Lori Albert and associates William Garehime and

Kelly Adams from Fennemore Craig to the firm’s Real Estate Practice Group.

Austin Jury Finds Danish Woman Was Defrauded in $1.35M Condo Sale

News

A Travis County jury has returned a verdict against Chicago Title of Texas, LLC and other real estate-related businesses, finding they defrauded a young Danish woman of all proceeds from the sale of her $1.35 million condominium at the exclusive Residences at W Austin, according to a post on the website of Androvett Legal Media & Marketing

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Texas Supreme Court Rules Pipeline Can Take Land by Eminent Domain

News

Typically, the power of eminent domain is granted to governmental entities rather than private institutions. Under Texas law, however, a common carrier has the right and power of eminent domain, according to Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.

Trump Pays $25 Million to Settle Trump University Litigation

News

Politico reports that Trump University transferred the funds Tuesday night, providing enough money pay back about half of the funds paid by students for the seminars.

License or Lease? The Contractual Limits of the Sharing Economy

Insight

In an article posted on Commercial Property Executive's website, Elizabeth Levin of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips explores the implications of contracts and lease agreements pertaining to co-working and short term rental arrangements.

A Settlement Agreement That's Too Vague Doesn't Settle Much At All

Insight

Stacey Lantagne, writing in her ContractsProf Blog, uses a recent Florida case to illustrate the importance of specificity when drafting contracts.

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5 Points: Arbitration Clauses in Real Estate Contracts

Insight

While consumers may not have many choices when signing agreements that contain arbitration clauses, commercial parties often negotiate every last term of their agreements, according to a post on Shutts & Bowen LLP's website.

Two New Cases: Fractional Royalty, Fraction of Royalty, or Mineral Interest?

Insight

Two new opinions, one from the San Antonio Court of Appeals

and one from the El Paso Court of Appeals, again tackle the task of construing mineral and royalty conveyances and reservations, reports John McFarland in his Oil and Gas Lawyer Blog.

Bankruptcy Trustee Dismisses Case After Expert Fails On Cross Examination

News

The trustee for a bankrupt company decided to drop his lawsuit after watching his expert witness cross examined by an attorney from Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing P.C.(AZA), clearing AZA's clients of claims that they received fraudulently transferred company assets, the firm reports in a news release.

Small-Firm Office Leasing Reality Check

Insight

While base rent and escalations seem like an obvious starting point, due to sky-high demand and flush competition, prospective tenants better serve their interests by focusing on other points, writes Laura Drossman of Drossman Law in San Francisco.

Illinois Governor Appoints Quarles & Brady Partner to READ Board

News

Everett Ward, partner at the Chicago office of Quarles & Brady, has been appointed by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner to serve as a public member of the Real Estate Administration and Disciplinary Board.

Judge Fines Foreclosure Law Firm $1.8 Million for Bogus Billings

News

A Denver judge has fined one of the city's prolific foreclosure attorneys $1.8 million for billing thousands of consumers facing the loss of their homes for title-insurance policies that did not exist, reports *The Denver Post*.

Court Finds That Text Message Can Form Binding Contract

Insight

A Massachusetts court ruled that a string of text messages can constitute a writing under the Statute of Frauds sufficient to bind the parties to sell certain property, writes Matthew DeVries on Burr & Forman LLP's Best Practices Construction Law.

Enforceability of Electronic Agreements in Real Estate Transactions

Insight

It is becoming common for more and more transactions to be created, negotiated, finalized and executed electronically, according to an alert from Arnall Golden Gregory LLP. From a real estate perspective, virtually all documents other than those that are being recorded are exchanged electronically.

Tucson Lawyer Pleads Guilty

In $33M Fraud Case

News

the charges involve a procedure in which defendants took out $33.6 million in loans against multi-million dollar homes and then forged documents to fool more lenders into believing the homes were debt-free.

Beck Redden's Pfeiffer Leads Charge to Overturn Fifth Circuit Decision

News

When Beck Redden partner and appellate specialist Connie Pfeiffer led the charge to overturn a Fifth Circuit decision, the path to victory was nearly certain to be long and arduous, the firm said in a release.

On the Nature of Being Mistaken in Contract

Article

Successful cases of contract reformation based on unilateral mistake are exceedingly rare – so endeavor not to be mistaken, cautions Glenn West of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in the

firm's *Global Private Equity Watch*.

Former Reading Int'l GC Joins Akerman Los Angeles Office

News

Veteran real estate lawyer William "Bill" Ellis has joined Akerman LLP's Los Angeles office as a partner in the Real Estate Practice Group.