Houston Litigation Boutique AZA Earns National Best Law Firms Ranking

NEWS

Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing is being recognized as one of the country's Best Law Firms for the third time by *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Best Lawyers in America*.

FBI Warns of Malware Possibly Used Against Sony Pictures

NEWS

An alert issued by the FBI on Monday is warning about a type of computer malware that has the ability to destroy any system it infects.

SEC Says Assisted Living Execs Faked Senior Residents

NEWS

The Securities and Exchange Commission has charged two top ex-officers of a company that operates assisted living centers with listing fake occupants at several senior residences to

meet the terms of a lease and misrepresenting in regulatory filings.

Manage the Intersection of Private Agreements and Public Requirements

White paper

Berkman Solutions has posted a contracts-and-compliance white paper and slides examining the two primary sources of compliance obligations related to contracts: performance obligations and government regulations.

Melanie Okon Named Among Who's Who in Energy for 2014

NEWS

Dallas business litigator Melanie Okon has been named one of the top North Texas energy attorneys in the *Dallas Business Journal*'s 2014 listing of Who's Who in Energy.

Cyber Criminals Target Biotech, Health Care

NEWS

Health care and biotech companies are increasingly seeing attacks by cyber criminals, reports the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Integrating Contract Management with Your Procurement Strategy

White Paper

Selectica offers a free white paper on integration of contract management as the key to transforming spend data into process efficiency, performance analysis and savings.

Study Sees Shortage of Skilled IT Talent

White Paper

Robert Half Technology has posted its 2015 “IT Hiring Forecast and Local Trend Report,” which was released Dec. 2.

Budget Needs for Contract Management Solutions

White Paper

Merrill DataSite has posted a complimentary white paper titled “Budget needs for contract management solutions: How to set budget expectations and understand vendor pricing models.”

Checking Social Media Can Help Employers, but Law Is Ambiguous

NEWS

There is little guidance about how much monitoring of an employee’s or job candidate’s social media activities is advisable or legal.

Venable Sues Ex-Client Over $300K Bill

NEWS

In a federal lawsuit against a former client, Venable doesn’t

simply accuse Overseas Lease Group Inc. of failing to pay a $300,000 bill, reports the ABA Journal.

SanDisk Names Mark Brazeal New CLO

NEWS

SanDisk Corp.. a global leader in flash memory storage solutions, has announced that it has appointed Mark Brazeal as senior vice president and chief legal officer.

Shareholders Get Rare Win in Freeport Deal Lawsuit

NEWS

Freeport-McMoRan Inc. reportedly is nearing a $100 million-plus settlement to resolve shareholder litigation over its 2013 purchase of two oil-and-gas companies, an unusually big win for investors, who are increasingly challenging merger deals.

Companies Ignore Risks, Benefits of Whistleblowing

NEWS

A survey of more than 2,500 middle and senior managers in multinational companies reveals high levels of corporate complacency related to whistleblowing.

Survey Looks at Changes Coming in the Legal Landscape

NEWSCorporate law departments will have a big hand in changing the legal market over the next 10 years, law firm leaders said in Altman Weil's sixth annual Law Firms in Transition Survey.

Bar Association Warns Corporations to Clean Up Supply Chains

NEWS

The president of the American Bar Association is set to urge chief executives at all of America's Fortune 500 companies to commit to ending human-rights abuses in their supply chains.

Smart Oracles: A Simple, Powerful Approach to Smart Contracts

NEWS

Stefan Thomas and Evan Schwartz have posted a complimentary white paper detailing smart oracles, which can provide a simple, flexible way to implement “smart contracts.”

Restaurant.com Trying to Avoid Penalties in Light of Rulings

NEWSNEWS

Restaurant.com is arguing in federal court that it shouldn’t be forced to pay penalties for gift certificates it sold in the past, penalties that could go as high at $1 million.

Russia Sanctions Pose an

Obstacle for Automated Compliance

NEWS

Russian sanctions are defeating efforts to automate compliance using screening software, reports *The Wall Street Journal* .

American Apparel Names New General Counsel

NEWS

American Apparel Inc. has named Chelsea A. Grayson its new executive vice president, general counsel and secretary of the company.