

High Court Shakes Its Pom-Poms for Uniform Makers

By BARBARA LEONARD

Adding a new kind of chevron to its precedent, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that cheerleading-uniform zig-zag designs enjoy protection under copyright law.

Senate Dems Skewer Judge Gorsuch on Allegiances

By BRANDI BUCHMAN

Emotional exchanges on abortion, equal-protection rights and executive authority dominated Wednesday as the Senate concludes its lengthy confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch.

Witness's Credibility Under Siege at Hernandez Trial

By ZACK HUFFMAN

An ex-friend of the imprisoned athlete Aaron Hernandez testified Tuesday that his loyalty to the former football player went out the window when Hernandez shot him in the face.

Spying Claim by Intel Chair Renews Fight Over Probe

AP

Private communications of Donald Trump and his presidential transition team may have been scooped up by American intelligence officials monitoring other targets and improperly distributed throughout spy agencies, the chairman of the House intelligence committee said Wednesday.

Workers Prevail in High Court Bankruptcy Fight

By KEVIN LESSMILLER

Handing a New Jersey company's truck drivers a victory, the Supreme Court ruled 6-2 Wednesday that bankruptcy courts can't allow select creditors to jump the repayment line and leave others empty-handed.

Justices Bolster Rights of Learning-Disabled Students

By DAN MCCUE

The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday bolstered the rights of learning-disabled students by requiring public school districts to ensure their special education programs offer these children more than the bare minimum of instruction.

Justices Affirm Pretrial Fourth Amendment Rights

By CRISTINE BAILEY

The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that an Illinois man can sue for malicious prosecution over his pretrial detention after he was jailed for 48 days because police falsified his drug-test results.

Disney Ducks Shareholder's Suit Over Wage-Fixing

By MATTHEW RENDA

A federal judge on Tuesday tossed a shareholder derivative suit against Disney's 11-person board of directors for lack of evidence they knew about a wage-fixing agreement between animation studios.

Judge Blocks Marketing of Gender Prediction Test

By BIANCA BRUNO

A California state judge ordered a Texas-based company to stop marketing its dangerous, exploding gender-prediction tests as safe, "based off science" or made in an FDA-certified facility.

Dead Zones Mark Latest Threat to Coral Reefs



Dead zones that snuff out marine life may affect dozens of coral reefs around the world, and threaten hundreds more.

Needle-Phobic Pharmacist Loses \$1.8 M on Appeal

By PAMELA BAKER



Reversing and remanding a \$1.8 million jury verdict, the Second Circuit found Tuesday that Rae Ad was justified in firing a needle-phobic pharmacist who refused to administer immunizations.

'Game of War' Creator Ducks Gambling Claim

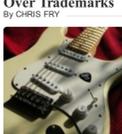
By BRANDI BUCHMAN



A woman who spent real money on virtual gold that she gambled away in the hopes of purely virtual prizes suffered a new defeat, this time in the Fourth Circuit.

Hendrix's Estate Sues Jimi's Brother Over Trademarks

By CHRIS FRY



Jimi Hendrix's estate claims in a federal complaint that five companies affiliated with his brother are selling unauthorized food, alcohol and marijuana products that violate copyrights and trademarks.

Anonymous Local Hero's Name Revealed - In Death

By PNT FEMBERTON



Whenever a late-night car accident, fire or natural disaster hit San Luis Obispo County, residents turned to the well-known, but anonymous SLOstringer's Facebook page for details. They now know his name, because he died in a crash as he headed to cover a fire.

Philadelphia DA Pleads Not Guilty to Bribery, Fraud

By LOWELL NEUBMANN NICOYE



The district attorney of Philadelphia pleaded not guilty before a federal judge Wednesday to charges that he performed official acts in exchange for bribes and defrauded a nursing home.

Digital Streaming Companies Win Patent Dispute

By RYAN KOGAN



A federal judge dismissed five patent infringement lawsuits over the licensing of digital media content on streaming platforms like Amazon and Netflix, finding the patent holder did not prove an inventive concept.

Hawaii Moves to Extend Block of Trump's Travel Ban

By NICHOLAS FILLMORE

The federal judge in Hawaii who last week temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's revised travel ban has scheduled a March 29 hearing to decide the Aloha State's request to turn the block into a preliminary injunction.

EU Says No to Citizens' 'Stop Brexit' Initiative

By WILLIAM DOTINGA

The European Commission on Wednesday declined to advance a citizens' initiative to stop Britain's break from the EU from happening, while greenlighting two other initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of people affected by Brexit.

Four Dead, 40 Gravely Injured After London Attack

By DAN MCCUE

Four people have died and 40 people suffered injuries Wednesday, after a lone attacker struck them with a vehicle on Westminster Bridge, near the British Parliament building, and then commenced to stab onlookers and at least one police officer.

Planned Parenthood Fights Kansas at 10th Circuit

By EMMA GANNON

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri faced the 10th Circuit for the second time Tuesday, asking the panel to affirm a ruling that Kansas cannot deny federal Medicaid funding to its two clinics in Kansas.

Wrongful Death Claims Filed Over Orlando Massacre

By IZZY KAPNICK

Victims of the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando filed a lawsuit in Florida federal court, claiming the shooter's wife and his employer stood by idly as he showed ever more alarming signs that he was planning a terrorist attack.

10th Circuit Hears Tulsa University Rape Case

By EMMA GANNON

The University of Tulsa barred a student from referencing her attacker's sexually violent past in his disciplinary hearing after he raped her, attorneys told the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals Wednesday morning.

S.D. Keeps Troubled Immigrant Investor Program

By LACEY LOUWAGIE

South Dakota may be able to continue operating its immigrant investor program despite a past order from the federal government to shut it down due to ongoing corruption.

New Idea Shakes Up Dinosaur Family Tree

AP



Tyrannosaurus Rex and his buddies could be on the move as a new study proposes a massive shake-up of the dinosaur family tree.

LAW



Social Media's @Fuckjerry Hauled Into Court

By BARBARA LEONARD

FJerry, the business behind the less-sanitized sounding social-media account, faces a \$250,000 complaint over sloppy promotional posts.

Magazine Must Face 'Welfare Queen' Libel Claims

By JAMES PALMER

The Texas Supreme Court rejected a Dallas magazine's bid to dismiss a lengthy battle over defamation claims brought by a woman it referred to as a "welfare queen" in a 2013 article.

Judge Seems Skeptical of Inmates' Phone Class Action

By HELEN CHRISTOPH

A federal judge indicated Tuesday she would toss at least some claims in four related class actions accusing Bay Area jails of allowing telecoms to overcharge inmates and their families for phone calls in exchange for a slice of the profits.

Oops! Arkansas Changes Robert E. Lee Holiday

By ERIC DE LA GARZA

Arkansas' governor signed a law Tuesday that gives Martin Luther King Jr. his own holiday, rather than celebrating it on the same day as Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Bundy Followers Get Misdemeanor Convictions

By SARINA BROWN

Prosecutors scored another win Tuesday against four Ammon Bundy followers that evaded them in the first trial against the leaders of the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

NATIONAL



Manafort Had Plan to Benefit Putin Government

AP

President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, secretly worked for a Russian billionaire to advance the interests of Russian President Vladimir Putin a decade ago and proposed an ambitious political strategy to undermine anti-Russian opposition across former Soviet republics, The Associated Press has learned.

Nonprofit Sues for Donald Rumsfeld's 'Snowflakes'

By TIM REAN

A nonprofit claims in a federal lawsuit that the Department of Defense froze its request for former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's "snowflakes," a trove of unreleased internal memos and declarations from his time in the Bush administration.

Chipotle Defends Itself Against Chef's Appeal

By ZACK HUFFMAN

A chef's attorney appeared to struggle a bit Tuesday as he tried to tell the New York Court of Appeals how much money his client lost from what he called fraudulent inducement from burrito chain Chipotle.

Ousted National Security Adviser Didn't Sign Ethics Pledge

AP

President Donald Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn did not sign a mandatory ethics pledge ahead of his forced resignation in February, raising questions about the White House's commitment to the lobbying and ethics rules it imposed as part of the president's promise to "drain the swamp."

Suit Over Uber Driver Promotion Dropped

By MATTHEW RENDA

Amid weeks of tumult at Uber, the ride-hailing technology company appears to have settled a case with a class of drivers who said the company didn't follow through on a promotional promise.

REGIONAL



Medical Waste Firm Takes on California Government

By REBEKAH KEARN

A medical waste disposal company sued California in Federal Court, for trying to control how it disposes of waste generated in California but disposed of in other states.

Celebration as First Coastal Restoration Project is Completed

By SIBBANA CANFIELD

Louisiana celebrated completion of the largest coastal restoration project it has ever undertaken to repair coastal lands this week with a ribbon-cutting attended by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Prosecutor Settles Claims in Police Killing Case

By NICHOLAS LOVINO

Civil claims against a Bay Area prosecutor accused of conspiring to "execute" a 21-year-old man and cover up his murder were settled by the victim's parents.

Bird Flu Found in North Alabama Poultry

By JOHN BRACKIN

Two separate flocks of chickens in north Alabama have tested positive for bird flu, according to Alabama State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier.

Judge Allows Elderly Couple's Claim Against Caregiver to Continue

By ELLEN ROBINSON

A federal judge declined to dismiss an elderly couple's claim that the trio of in-home caregivers repeatedly caused them emotional distress as they wantonly stole their belongings and money.

INTERNATIONAL



Liverpool Plans Extravaganza for 50 Years of 'Sgt. Pepper'

AP

The English city of Liverpool is getting set to celebrate the half-centenary of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," one of the most influential albums by local heroes The Beatles.

US, South Korea Say North Korea's Latest Missile Test Failed

AP

North Korea's latest missile launch ended in failure on Wednesday as the United States sent a supersonic bomber streaking over ally South Korea in a show of force against the North, officials said.

German Cabinet OKs Plan to Annul Homosexuality Convictions

AP

Germany's Cabinet on Wednesday approved a bill that would annul the convictions of thousands of gay men under a law criminalizing homosexuality that was applied zealously in post-World War II West Germany.

London's Trafalgar Square Fourth Plinth Artworks Revealed

AP

The next two artworks to be showcased on the Fourth Plinth in London's famous Trafalgar Square have been selected. The art platform is currently home to a giant bronze thumb, but will be replaced in 2018 by a recreation of an ancient sculpture destroyed by the Islamic State group, it was announced Tuesday.

Congo Ex-Vice President Sentenced to Extra Year

AP

A former Congolese vice president was sentenced Wednesday to an extra year in prison and fined 300,000 euros (\$324,000) for interfering with witnesses in his trial at the International Criminal Court.

In Brief

'Rehab Addict'

Minneapolis claims in state court that a company owned by HGTV "Rehab Addict" star Nicole Curtis breached a contract with the city by failing to redevelop a property, pay real estate taxes or maintain required insurance on the property.

Consumer Fraud

A federal class action claims General Nutrition Corp. labeled its Aloe Vera Skin Gel as 99 percent aloe vera gel containing aloe barbadensis leaf juice, but lab testing showed the product contained no actual aloe vera.

Beauty Pageant

An Illinois state's attorney claims the promoter of a state beauty pageant add-on called Miss Photogenic told contestants that money from the competition would be donated to a children's hospital, but he kept it for his own benefit.

Meth Dealing

The United States claims in a federal complaint that Terry Ray Ford and Dawn Marie Peters, of Fresno, conspired to distribute and distribute methamphetamine and laundered \$5 million in proceeds through a Chinese bank.

Make America Support My Hat Again

A Trump supporter endured the "saddest hour of his life," he claims in court, when a West Village bar called The Happiest Hour threw him out in the cold because of his Make America Great Again hat.

Rowland Conviction Stands

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to overturn the convictions of former Connecticut Gov. John Rowland, for conspiring to hide his work on two Republican congressional campaigns.

Diet Supplements

A federal class action claims GNC Holdings, diet supplement stores, sold "millions" of customers discount Gold Cards for \$15 a year, then terminated the program.

Nightly Brief

Top CNS stories for today including a purported terror attack in central London leaving four dead and 20 seriously wounded; the Supreme Court ruling copyright laws do protect zig-zags and other designs on cheerleading uniforms; Senate Democrats skewer Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch on allegiances; the high court bolsters the rights of learning-disabled public school students, and more.

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