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Subject: IRS Plans Tax Rules For Partnerships, Health Benefits

PUBLIC POLICY

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TOP NEWS

IRS Plans Tax Rules For Partnerships, Health Benefits

The IRS intends to take on foreign partnership audits, health care trust rules and other rule-makings in the next year, according a 281-point agenda the agency unveiled Monday.

NLRB Wants High Court To OK General Counsel Nomination

The National Labor Relations Board has urged the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a decision by the D.C. Circuit that onetime acting NLRB general counsel Lafe Solomon was improperly nominated, saying his nomination comported with a longstanding interpretation of federal law used by Congress and several presidents.

Calif. Appeals Court Limits Bay Area Air Standards

A California appeals court has declined to nix Bay Area air quality emissions standards that were challenged by a building industry group, but found that the thresholds may be used in only limited instances.

MetLife Tells D.C. Circuit It's Not Systemically Important

MetLife is urging the D.C. Circuit to uphold a lower court's ruling axing its designation as a systemically important financial institution whose collapse could threaten the U.S. economy, arguing that federal regulators arbitrarily deviated from their own standards in slapping the life insurer with the tag.

Tougher US Truck Emission Standards Become Reality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on Tuesday finalized the latest round of more-stringent greenhouse gas and fuel efficiency standards for new large and heavy-duty vehicles, like buses and tractor-trailers.

Kane Resignation Could Clear Air At Troubled Pa. AG's Office

Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane announced she would resign Wednesday in the wake of her criminal conviction earlier this week, leaving top deputy Bruce Castor to repair an office that experts say has been wracked by paranoia and toxicity under Kane's leadership.

ANALYSIS

Kane's Unfair Prosecution Claims Have Slim Chance On Appeal

While questions linger over the motivations behind the grand jury probe that ultimately resulted in Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane's

LAW FIRMS

Arnold & Porter
Axiom Law
Ballard Spahr
Boies Schiller
Cleary Gottlieb
Cooley
Cox Castle
Dentons
Dorsey & Whitney
Drinker Biddle
Earthjustice
Gibson Dunn
Griesing Law
Hall Lamb
Jones Day
Kellogg Huber
Kobre & Kim
McAndrews Law Offices
Native American Rights Fund
Oles Morrison
Pietragallo Gordon
Polsinelli
Post & Schell
Reed Smith
Ropes & Gray
Schiff Hardin
Shute Mihaly
Stark & Stark
Stradley Ronon
Sullivan & Worcester
White & Case
Willkie Farr
Winston & Strawn

COMPANIES

conviction Monday on perjury charges, legal experts said she would likely find little sympathy from appeals courts with arguments that she was selectively prosecuted.

New Anti-Laundering Regs Needed For Firms, Expert Says

A top international anti-money laundering expert on Tuesday said that regulators need to extend reporting requirements to law firms in order to close a gap that allows potentially illicit funds to evade detection by banks, real estate firms and government watchdogs.

BANKING & SECURITIES

Chinese Regulators OK Shenzhen-Hong Kong Trading Link

China and Hong Kong securities regulators on Tuesday approved a link establishing mutual stock market access between the Shenzhen and Hong Kong stock exchanges, marking China's latest bid to open its capital markets to overseas investors.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

Brockovich Wants EPA To Set Hexavalent Chromium Levels

Environmental activist Erin Brockovich sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday saying federal regulators should set new national water standards for the cancer-causing chemical hexavalent chromium, saying the inadequate current standards are creating confusion over the safety of drinking water near coal ash basins across North Carolina.

States, Enviros Move To Support EPA's New Methane Rules

Eight states, the city of Chicago and several environmental groups on Monday weighed in at the D.C. Circuit in favor of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regulations reducing methane emissions from new and modified oil and gas infrastructure.

11th Circ. Lets 6th Circ. Navigate Water Rule Challenge

The Eleventh Circuit said Tuesday that it won't revive 10 states' challenge to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Rule, saying that would be a "colossal waste of judicial resources" when litigation in the Sixth Circuit over the same rule is already well underway.

HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

Fla. Doctor Can't Ditch Feds' New Experts In Bribery Case

A Florida eye doctor accused of bribing U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., lost his bid in a separate Medicare fraud case to exclude the government's newly introduced witnesses Tuesday when a federal judge ruled that doing so would be an extreme sanction and one that is unwarranted in this case.

Texas Judge Won't Sign Off On State Med Board's Appeal

A Texas federal judge on Monday held the Texas Medical Board waited too long before asking him to certify a Fifth Circuit appeal of his ruling that Teladoc Inc. can move forward with a challenge of a rule requiring doctors to see patients face to face before providing remote health care.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

AT&T Inc.

American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

Barclays PLC

CenturyLink Inc.

Chicago Cubs

Comcast Corporation

Computer & Communications Industry Association

Creative Mischief LLC

Credit Suisse Group AG

Deutsche Bank AG

Duke Energy Corporation

Environmental Defense Fund Inc.

Facebook

Florida Trend

Frontier Communications Corporation

Google Inc.

HBR Consulting LLC

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing

Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.

MSCI, Inc.

Major League Baseball Inc.

MetLife Inc.

National Cable & Telecommunications Association

Natural Resources Defense Council

New York Times Co.

PG&E Corporation

ParkerVision, Inc.

Patheon Inc.

Porsche

Public Knowledge

QUALCOMM Incorporated

Shanghai Stock Exchange Ltd.

Shenzhen Stock Exchange

Sierra Club

Sony Corporation

T-Mobile USA Inc.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

UBS AG

United States Telecom Association

Williams Lea

DOT Clarifies Regs For Abandoned Oil, Gas Pipelines

The U.S. Department of Transportation on Tuesday clarified its regulations, saying that owners and operators of hazardous liquid, carbon dioxide and gas pipelines are fully responsible for the safety of their pipelines at all times, even if they were abandoned and no longer in active use.

EMPLOYMENT

Chamber Calls EEOC Pay Info Reporting Excessive, Unlawful

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Monday blasted the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's proposal to require employers to submit compensation data as part of their reports to the agency, saying the requirement is a costly privacy risk that is inconsistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

Ill. Gov. Signs Bill Granting Protections To Domestic Workers

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, a Republican, has signed a bill ensuring that nannies, housecleaners, home care workers and other domestic workers receive the state's minimum wage, protections against sexual harassment and other workplace protections, according to the governor's website.

COMPETITION

Fattah, Co-Conspirators Ask Court To Toss Guilty Verdicts

Claiming prosecutors relied on insufficient evidence and that jury instructions were flawed, former U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah and others convicted in a federal corruption trial asked the court on Monday to overturn their guilty verdicts.

PRIVACY & CONSUMER PROTECTION

More Illinois Courts To Allow Cameras

Six new Illinois circuit courts will begin allowing cameras in their courtrooms starting next month, joining 45 other county courts in Illinois that have already allowed extended media coverage in their courtrooms.

Calif. Senate OKs Bill Keeping Actors' Age Behind The Curtain

The California state Senate on Monday approved a bill to require online entertainment employment service providers, such as IMDb.com's pro casting service, to keep actors' ages private upon request, a bill touted by its author as a blow against age discrimination.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

GAO Says US Owed \$2.3 B In Unpaid Duties

The U.S. government is owed \$2.3 billion in unpaid anti-dumping and countervailing duties, two-thirds of which will probably never be paid, according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report issued Monday.

NATIVE AMERICAN

Alaska Drops 'Dead End' Tribal Land-Into-Trust Litigation

Alaska's attorney general said Monday the state won't appeal a recent D.C. Circuit decision that rejected its bid to block the U.S. Department of the Interior from taking land into trust for Alaska tribes, saying the state would look

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Army Corps of Engineers
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Employee Benefits Security Administration
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Executive Office of the President
Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council
Federal Communications Commission
Federal Deposit Insurance Corp
Federal Reserve System
Financial Stability Oversight Council
Government Accountability Office
Illinois Supreme Court
Internal Revenue Service
Legal Services Corp.
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
National Labor Relations Board
Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs
Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration
Securities and Exchange Commission
Small Business Administration
Texas Attorney General's Office
U.S. Army
U.S. Attorney's Office
U.S. Copyright Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Treasury
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
U.S. Supreme Court

to address concerns over the process through consultation and abandon the “dead-end litigation.”

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Advocacy Groups Urge Speedy Biz Data Services Regs

A group of advocacy organizations want the Federal Communications Commission to move quickly on proposed new regulations for business data services, according to an ex parte filing Monday that argued action is necessary to promote competition in a space that largely lacks it.

Cable Group Warns FCC Of Set-Top Legal Problems

The National Cable & Telecommunications Association on Tuesday cautioned the Federal Communications Commission that any proposal to unlock competition in the market for set-top boxes — even if termed “apps-based” — that includes unbundling content would raise legal issues, including ones related to copyright protection.

FCC Slams USTelecom Bid To Nix Network Transition Rules

The Federal Communications Commission has fired back at the U.S. Telecom Association’s D.C. Circuit challenge to new rules regulating the transition from copper to voice over internet protocol networks, telling the appeals court that it has the legal authority to prevent service blackouts for consumers.

T-Mobile Challenges Missouri City’s Tower Permit Denial

T-Mobile hit a Missouri city with a federal court lawsuit Monday alleging the company was denied a special permit for a 90-foot telecommunications tower without the level of reasoning required under the law.

PEOPLE

Lehman Brothers Bankruptcy Judge Tapped For FDIC Panel

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Shelley Chapman, who is overseeing Lehman Brothers’ massive Chapter 11 case in New York, has been chosen to serve on a committee that advises the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. on how to address the potential failure of large financial institutions.

EXPERT ANALYSIS

Unintended Consequences Of New DOL Fiduciary Rule

The U.S. Department of Labor’s new “fiduciary rule,” which redefined the term “fiduciaries” in relation to employee benefit plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, may require ERISA fidelity bonding for advisers who provide discretionary investment management services to 401(k) plans, says Max Schatzow of Stark & Stark.

P3 At USPTO: Time To Re-Examine 'Compact Prosecution'

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s Post-Prosecution Pilot program, which took effect last month, is part of the USPTO’s continuing efforts to reduce the number of requests for continued examination. However, the P3 program actually reduces the opportunities available for applicants to advance their applications, and calls into question the USPTO’s entire approach to “compact prosecution,” says Jeffrey Ingberman of Ropes & Gray LLP.

Inside The New SBA Mentor-Protege Past Performance Rules

One of the changes in the Small Business Administration's expansion of its mentor-protege program is that agencies must consider projects performed by the individual members of a mentor-protege joint venture offeror when evaluating experience/past performance. While this is clearly an attempt to help mentor-protege joint ventures, arguably this change does more harm than good, says Adam Lasky of Oles Morrison Rinker & Baker LLP.

5 Mistakes To Avoid When Building Law Libraries

As advances in technology continue to push law libraries in a more complex direction, many law firms are still making structural mistakes. Fahad Zaidi, senior consultant at HBR Consulting, notes five common pitfalls that law firms should be wary of when developing their libraries.

LEGAL INDUSTRY

3 Ways To Improve Your Business Development Team

Business development teams have become more prominent at law firms over the past few years, according to experts, and with an ever-expanding role comes the responsibility to find ways to better serve not just the clients, but the attorneys too. Here, Law360 looks at three ways these teams can improve and add value to the lawyers, firms and clients they serve.

The Do's And Don'ts Of Law Firm Websites

A law firm's talent, prowess and record are what ultimately draw in business, but its website can offer potential clients their first exposure to the firm or reinforcement to seal the deal. Here, experts reveal what GCs seek out when they visit a firm's landing page and how attorneys can maximize the impact of their online presence.

Litigation Powerhouse: Cooley LLP

Widely regarded as one of Silicon Valley's go-to law firms, Cooley LLP has been flexing its litigation muscles by representing Facebook in a cutting-edge privacy lawsuit and overturning a \$173 million verdict against Qualcomm, earning the firm a spot on Law360's list of Litigation Powerhouses.

White & Case Revenues Soar 39% In UK, Africa

White & Case LLP's U.K. and Africa operations saw significant growth in 2015, with a 39 percent uptick in revenue over the previous year, according to financial filings made public on Monday.

Law Firms Report Ramped Up Focus On Back Office Tech

Law firms are plotting a big technology push right now for their back offices, according to the results of a survey out Tuesday, which found that 57 percent of firms have plans to increase their administrative budgets, primarily in cyber security and data protection, technology, and technology staffing.

Atty Files \$10M Suit Alleging Beating By DA Investigator

A Southern California defense attorney slapped Orange County and a District Attorney's Office investigator with a \$10 million lawsuit in federal court Monday, alleging he was left "battered and bloody" after an assault by the investigator while trying to counsel a witness in a courthouse hallway.

Rainmaker Q&A: Hall Lamb's Andrew Hall

Developing a niche has been invaluable to me. While marketing your services and networking with contacts is vital, if you don't have something that sets you

apart, then you become solely reliant on your circle of friends for business referrals, says Andrew Hall, managing partner at Hall Lamb and Hall PA.

Rainmaker Q&A: Dentons' Jessica Abrahams

Even when the client wants to hire you, remember that you are part of a team. Showing off your team does not detract from your status, it makes you look stronger and more attractive to potential clients, says Jessica Abrahams, chairwoman of Dentons' U.S. government contracts practice and global public procurement practice.

JOBS

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