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Subject: Congress Passes Major Pharmaceutical Reform Bill

PUBLIC POLICY

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TOP NEWS

Congress Passes Major Pharmaceutical Reform Bill

Congress passed a major pharmaceutical reform bill Wednesday, after a bipartisan Senate vote sent sweeping changes to drug approvals, research funding and other measures to President Barack Obama's desk.

Trump Taps Oklahoma AG Pruitt To Lead EPA

President-elect Donald Trump will nominate Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to lead the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, according to reports published Wednesday, bolstering the likelihood that the agency will quickly veer from the Obama administration's climate change-focused agenda.

Trump Transition Watch: Gen. Kelly Emerges As DHS Pick

President-elect Donald Trump has reportedly picked Gen. John Kelly to be the next secretary of homeland security, making him the third general chosen for a top post in the new administration, while elsewhere Trump indicated that he would "work something out" regarding young immigrants known as Dreamers.

House To Vote For Funding Bandage To Hold Gov't Until April

House leaders unveiled the latest stopgap government funding measure Tuesday, aiming to keep the government running into the first several months of President-elect Donald Trump's new administration.

EU Anti-Tax Evasion Move Targets Company Ownership Info

The Council of the European Union reached an agreement Tuesday to require banks in member states to share information on the beneficial ownership of companies, as a measure to prevent tax evasion and fraud.

Analysis

The Biggest Pa. Policy Developments Of 2016

Partisan divisions in Harrisburg deepened during the second year of Gov. Tom Wolf's term, but the Democratic governor and the Republican-held General Assembly did reach agreements in 2016 on legislation that enabled medical marijuana and created a statewide framework for ride-hailing. Here, Law360 looks at some of Pennsylvania's key policy developments in 2016.

BANKING & SECURITIES

LAW FIRMS

Akin Gump
Allen & Overy
Babst Calland
Baker & McKenzie
Center for Constitutional Litigati
Consovoy McCarthy
Covington & Burling
Cravath Swaine
Davis Wright Tremaine
Dentons
Dorsey & Whitney
Dowd Bloch
Edelson PC
Fennemore Craig
Gibson Dunn
Hicks Porter
Holland & Knight
Levin Papantonio
Linklaters
Littler Mendelson
Mayer Brown
Nielsen Merksamer
Paul Hastings
Perkins Coie
Sacks Weston Diamond
Simpson Thacher
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Troutman Sanders
Venable LLP
White and Williams
WilmerHale

COMPANIES

AT&T Inc.

Banking Group Sues Over Credit Union Membership

A banking industry group said in a Wednesday lawsuit that a rule expanding credit union membership poses a threat to banks because it allows their tax-exempt competitors to vastly increase their customer base beyond what federal law allows.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

EPA Moves To Ban TCE In Dry Cleaning Uses

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday proposed banning the toxic chemical trichloroethylene when it's used as a degreaser and a spot removal agent in dry-cleaning operations.

Pa. DEP To Challenge Fracking Rules Halt At State's Top Court

Pennsylvania environmental regulators said Tuesday that they would ask the state's Supreme Court to review a decision blocking certain provisions of controversial new regulations on hydraulic fracturing from taking effect while an industry group pursues a legal challenge.

New York To Sue EPA Over Long Island Sound Dredging Plan

The state of New York will sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over a plan to establish a dredging disposal site in the Long Island Sound, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Tuesday.

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

NJ Lawmakers Advance Bill For Online Gaming At Racetracks

The New Jersey State Assembly Gaming Committee has approved a bill that would allow racetracks to offer online casino gaming, a month after three-quarters of state voters rejected a proposal to allow casinos outside of Atlantic City.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

House Advances Hours-Of-Service Fix For Truckers

A provision restoring the U.S. Department of Transportation's so-called 34-hour restart rule for truckers was tacked onto the latest stopgap government funding measure that House leaders unveiled Tuesday, providing relief to a trucking industry peeved by the Obama administration's attempt to update the regulations in 2013.

TSA Must Tackle Surface Transpo Security, Senate Panel Told

Representatives from Amtrak, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and the trucking and natural gas industries told a Senate panel Wednesday that growing security risks for railways, ports, pipelines and mass transit systems call for more streamlined government oversight.

INSURANCE

House Passes International Insurance Bill In Face Of Veto

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill meant to make the Federal Reserve's authority to enter into international agreements on insurance standards more transparent, in the face of a White House threat to veto the bill over concerns it would hamstring the president's foreign negotiations authority.

EMPLOYMENT

Airbnb Inc.

Amazon.com Inc.

American Bankers Association

American Bar Association

American Civil Liberties Union

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American International Group Inc.

American Trucking Association Inc.

Apple Inc.

Cisco Systems Inc.

Citigroup Inc.

Comcast Corporation

Consumer Reports

Credit Suisse Group AG

Dallas Mavericks

Deloitte Touche

Dot Foods Inc.

Electronic Privacy Information Center

Experian

Facebook

Florida Justice Association

GoDaddy Inc.

Google Inc.

Home Box Office Inc.

Independent Community Bank of America

InterContinental Hotels Group PLC

Johnson & Johnson

L'Oreal SA

LexisNexis Group

Lyft Inc.

MasterCard Incorporated

Mattel, Inc.

NBCUniversal Inc.

Natural Resources Defense Council

Netflix Inc.

New York Times Co.

Nuance Communications, Inc.

PepsiCo Inc.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Public Knowledge

Robert Half International Inc.

DOL Says No Reason To Delay OT Rule Appeal In 5th Circ.

The U.S. Department of Labor on Wednesday urged the Fifth Circuit to accelerate the agency's bid to revive overtime rules that have been enjoined by a Texas federal judge, saying pending motions in the trial court should not hold up the DOL's appeal.

White House Hails 44 New Employers On Equal Pay Pledge

AT&T, eBay, Zillow and a bevy of other companies across a wide array of industries have pledged to help reduce the gender pay gap by running an annual compensation analysis, the White House said Wednesday.

Ill. Gov. Blocked From Implementing Union Contract Changes

A judge in St. Clair County, Illinois, put a temporary stop Tuesday to Gov. Bruce Rauner's imposition of new terms for a contract governing nearly 40,000 state workers in response to an American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees lawsuit over the negotiations on the contract.

COMPETITION

AT&T, Time Warner Chiefs Vow \$85B Tie-Up Won't Hike Prices

The heads of AT&T and Time Warner told lawmakers Wednesday that their proposed \$85.4 billion combination would not lead to higher television costs for consumers, vowing to drive innovation instead of squelching competition.

FBI Arrests Puerto Rico Mayor On Extortion Charges

The recently re-elected mayor of a Puerto Rican municipality was arrested Wednesday on charges of extortion and soliciting a bribe for allegedly funneling government money into a telecommunications project that officials say was a \$15 million Ponzi scheme.

PRIVACY & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Groups Say 'Spy Toys' Don't Play Well With Privacy Regs

The companies behind a pair of popular internet-connected toys came under fire Tuesday from consumer groups in the U.S. and Europe that asked the Federal Trade Commission, the European Commission and other regulators to probe the playthings' potential privacy and security risks.

Litigant Blasts Spokeo's Case Citations In 9th Circ.

The man behind a proposed Fair Credit Reporting Act class action that's back before the Ninth Circuit after a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision has said the rulings that Spokeo Inc. cites in support of its efforts to end the litigation aren't particularly recent or favorable to the company's position.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Defense Authorization Bill Clears Senate Hurdle

After passing the House last week, the Senate voted to end debate on the \$619 billion National Defense Authorization Act on Wednesday, which would enact widespread reforms to defense acquisitions, in addition to increasing defense spending overall.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Spokeo Inc.
Spotify Technology SA
Square Inc.
Staples Inc.
TBS International Limited
The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
Time Warner Cable
Time Warner Inc.
TransCanada Corporation
Turner Broadcasting System Inc.
Twitter Inc.
Uber Technologies Inc.
Verizon Communications
Virginia State Bar
Warner Bros.
Washington Post Co.
Yahoo! Inc.
Zillow Inc.
eBay Inc.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Army Corps of Engineers
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Cowlitz Indian Tribe
European Commission
Executive Office of the President
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Communications Commission
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Federal Reserve System
Federal Trade Commission
Food and Drug Administration
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Internal Revenue Service
Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
National Credit Union Administration
National Institutes of Health

Rep. Brady Asks Trump To Spur Int'l Green Goods Accord

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady on Tuesday urged the incoming Trump administration to take up the fight for an international trade agreement on green goods despite the collapse last weekend of the World Trade Organization-sponsored talks on the deal.

TAX

IRS Adjusts Rules On Losses From Terminated Business Units

The Internal Revenue Service issued final and temporary regulations on Wednesday relating to the recognition and deferral of foreign currency gain or loss that occurs in certain transactions involving partnerships and when qualified business units are terminated.

Wash. Revenue Agency Defends Retroactive Tax Change

Washington state's revenue department hit back at an Illinois food distributor's assertion that a retroactive application of amended tax statutes unconstitutionally violated due process, telling the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday that the changes justified a rational legislative purpose.

NATIVE AMERICAN

House Sends 2 Bills On Tribal Land Trusts To Obama's Desk

The U.S. House of Representatives signed off on two bills on Tuesday that concern taking land into trust for Oregon-based Native American tribes, sending them to President Barack Obama's desk, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs announced.

Tribes Urge Justices To Nix DOI's Land Trust For Cowlitz

Two California-based tribes and a tribal business alliance have backed an anti-casino group asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review and overturn a D. C. Circuit ruling that held the U.S. Department of the Interior properly took Washington state land into trust for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's gaming project.

Tribe Says Ariz. Official Can't Show Fraud In Casino Row

The Tohono O'odham Nation has urged a federal judge to grant it a win in its suit against the head of Arizona's gambling department over the tribe's right to offer Las Vegas-style gaming near Phoenix, saying the official's claims the tribe committed fraud by allegedly hiding its intention to open a casino there aren't supported by the record.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FCC Republicans Want Course Correction, Process Fix

The Federal Communications Commission's two Republican commissioners spoke out Tuesday and Wednesday for goals under a GOP-led FCC, calling for a new regulatory approach and better process and transparency at the commission.

FCC's Wheeler Pushes Internet Of Things Cybersecurity Plan

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler has touted work at the FCC on cybersecurity and pushed a program for collaborating with other agencies and stakeholders on security challenges arising from 5G and connected devices, saying the transition to a new president shouldn't delay the work.

PEOPLE

National Railroad Passenger Corporation

Pala Band of Mission Indians

Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians

Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

Securities and Exchange Commission

Texas Attorney General's Office

Tohono O'odham Nation

Transportation Security Administration

U.S. Army

U.S. Attorney's Office

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Senate

U.S. Supreme Court

United Auburn Indian Community

United Nations

Akin Gump Snags Int'l Trade Pro From Baker & McKenzie

A former Baker & McKenzie practice head and leading international trade lawyer with deep expertise in European Union trade policy has joined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP as a partner in London.

Fla. Justices Weigh Patient Privacy Rights In Med Mal Cases

The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday will weigh a challenge to a state law allowing doctors and hospitals accused of medical malpractice to seek medical history and other information from a patient-plaintiff's previous doctors, in a case that touches on privacy and constitutionality issues. Here, Law360 recaps the history of the case in advance of Thursday's oral arguments.

Coffee Shop Can Fight Beer-To-Go Guidance, Texas Court Says

A Texas appeals court on Wednesday held that Cuvee Coffee, a popular roaster in Austin, can fight a Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission decision banning the coffee shop from selling beer it packages on site, holding that the commission's posted guidance on the issue qualified as a rule that the roaster can challenge.

EXPERT ANALYSIS

As EPA Sets 2017 Renewable Fuel Volumes, Future Is Unclear

The Environmental Protection Agency has released its final 2017 volumes under the Renewable Fuel Standard, a program established by Congress to spur development and use of biofuels in the U.S. transportation sector. But the 2017 numbers may face legal challenges — and the entire RFS program could be restructured by the Trump EPA or the new Congress, says James Rubin of Dorsey & Whitney LLP.

The FTC's Overreaching Regulation Of Homeopathic Drugs

Recently, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission decided once again to force itself into the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's ill-fitting shoes, establishing safety and effectiveness standards for over-the-counter homeopathic drugs. The FTC is only obfuscating the already-strained regulatory framework for homeopathic drugs, say attorneys from Venable LLP.

Philip Hirschkop: Quietly Making Noise For 50 Years

The first paragraph of Philip Hirschkop's obituary is going to contain the word "Loving." That's undeniable. But many of Hirschkop's other cases are just as groundbreaking in their own right. They aren't household names like Loving, but they have affected millions in the nation's households, says Randy Maniloff of White and Williams LLP.

LEGAL INDUSTRY

Why Midsize Firms Are Stealing Work From BigLaw

Midsize law firms have begun gobbling up an increasingly large portion of legal work from corporate clients in recent years, a phenomenon experts chalk up to those firms' ability and willingness to budge on fees.

Associate Bonus Timeline: Who Matched Cravath When

Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP announced its year-end associate bonuses

Nov. 28, and a flurry of law firms have since hopped on the bandwagon, matching the compensation trend setter's lead.

[ABA Offers Guidance On Cross-Firm Fee-Splitting](#)

Lawyers who wish to share fees with other lawyers who are not a part of their law firms are permitted to do so, but have to follow specific procedures in order to avoid running afoul of ethics rules, an American Bar Association committee has ruled.

[Innovative Corporate Counsel: Paul Lanois](#)

In just a few years at Credit Suisse, Paul Lanois, senior legal counsel of international wealth management and the Swiss Universal Bank, has advised the company through the rollout of new products as the financial institution evolves, landing him among Law360's 2016 Innovative Corporate Counsel.

[Linklaters' Revenue Climbed Alongside Profits Last Year](#)

London-based Linklaters LLP raked in £1.3 billion (\$1.6 billion) in revenue last year, the highest figure the firm has posted since the start of the recession, and also saw its profits go up, financial documents released on Tuesday reveal.

JOBS

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