

February 8, 2012

## Legal Reform News Daily

### **More US states to join foreclosure-abuse deal**

*Wall Street Journal* | *Subscription Required* | Feb 08, 2012

Arizona, Michigan and Florida, three of the states hit hardest by the housing crisis, will join a nationwide settlement over foreclosure abuses, officials with direct knowledge say. They will join more than 40 other states in approving a deal that would benefit many Americans who lost their homes or can't afford their mortgages.

Tags: [Financial Services](#), [State Attorneys General](#)

### **Mortgage Settlement Talks Look Like Tobacco II**

*Forbes* | Feb 08, 2012

Stop me if you've heard this one before: Politically ambitious state attorneys general target an unpopular industry with lawsuits based on creative legal theories that would stand a tough time in court. Their sheer legal might brings the other side to the negotiating table. Talks grind on. Finally a grand bargain is struck that buys the industry some measure of immunity and sends cash sluicing directions that will help the AGs in their political careers.

Tags: [Financial Services](#), [State Attorneys General](#)

### **Justice Department Weighing Whether to Go Forward on FCPA Sting Prosecutions**

*Main Justice* | *Subscription Required* | Feb 08, 2012

After two mistrials and no convictions, senior Justice Department leaders are weighing whether to continue prosecuting a sprawling Foreign Corrupt Practices Act case built through an FBI sting operation, a prosecutor said Tuesday during a status hearing in federal court in Washington, D.C.

Tags: [Foreign Corrupt Practices Act](#)

### **Global Class Actions After Morrison v. National Australia Bank**

*American Lawyer* | *Subscription Required* | Feb 08, 2012

Two weeks ago I reviewed the wide impact of Morrison v. National Australia Bank in the U.S. federal courts, and the limited prospects for state law workarounds. The Global Lawyer today examines the prospects for Morrison suits abroad, as well as a treaty that might govern them.

Tags: [Class Action](#), [International](#), [Securities Litigation](#)

### **Before Retiring His Robes, Judge Holwell Denies Appellate Bid by Vivendi Shareholders**

*American Lawyer* | *Subscription Required* | Feb 08, 2012

Someday, plaintiffs lawyers representing Vivendi shareholders will have a chance to argue to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit that their securities claims against the company never should have been dismissed. And the Second Circuit might shock securities litigators everywhere by ruling that investors who bought ordinary Vivendi shares on the Paris Bourse can pursue their claims, despite the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Morrison v. NAB that U.S. securities laws don't apply to foreign transactions.

Tags: [International](#), [Securities Litigation](#)

### **Renegade Toyota lawyer loses bid to overturn arbitration loss**

*National Law Journal* | *Subscription Required* | Feb 08, 2012

Dimitrios Biller, the former in-house attorney for Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. who accused the automaker of discovery violations in products-liability cases, lost his appeal to overturn a \$2.5 million arbitration award against him.

Tags: [Arbitration - ADR](#), [Trial Lawyers' Influence](#)

### **Nine companies sued over "exclusive forum" bylaws**

*Reuters* | Feb 08, 2012

Chevron Corp. and eight other corporations were sued by shareholders on Tuesday for adopting a bylaw that requires common types of shareholder lawsuits be brought exclusively in Delaware's Chancery Court.

Tags: [Delaware](#), [Securities Litigation](#)

### **Transatlantic, Carlyle, Score Two for the Plaintiffs' Bar**

*Wall Street Journal* | Feb 08, 2012

If you are troubled by the way class-action securities litigation seems to favor the lawyers and cost shareholders money with rare financial benefits, two events last week will make you unhappy.

Tags: [Arbitration - ADR](#), [Class Action](#), [Securities Litigation](#)

### **Dukes Doesn't Bar Class Action over Bayer Vitamin Sales, Judge Rules**

*American Lawyer* | Feb 08, 2012

After the U.S. Supreme Court knocked out the largest employment class in history last summer in *Wal-Mart v. Dukes*, a hopeful plaintiffs lawyer predicted to *The American Lawyer* that *Dukes*' heightened commonality requirements would have little impact on consumer class actions, where the allegations "almost always arise from a uniform sequence of corporate malfeasance." A ruling last week in a class action against Bayer over its vitamin sales adds some support to that theory.

Tags: **Arbitration - ADR, California, Class Action**

### **Solicitor General Backs Pharma Sales Reps on Overtime Pay**

*American Lawyer* | *Subscription Required* | Feb 08, 2012

Two months before the U.S. Supreme Court considers whether pharmaceutical sales representatives are entitled to overtime pay, plaintiffs lawyers who brought class wage-and-hour claims against GlaxoSmithKline have gained a powerful ally in the case.

Tags: **Class Action**

### **Study shows plaintiff bias in Philly courts**

*Legal Newsline* | Feb 08, 2012

For years defendants in tort cases have said that Philadelphia's courts are biased, but little in the way of empirical data was available to substantiate the claims. But, a new study indicates that the accusations of structural biases in favor of plaintiffs are justified.

Tags: **Pennsylvania, Trial Lawyers' Influence**

### **Owner renting websites to asbestos firms**

*Legal Newsline* | Feb 08, 2012

The owner of three websites with asbestos litigation-related names is putting space up for rent to the asbestos law firms.

Tags: **Asbestos**

### **America's national sport is coming to the hospital near you**

*Daily Mail* | Feb 08, 2012

Why do the same medical procedures often cost three times as much in America as in British private hospitals? The answer is, malpractice litigation, much of it spurred on by lawyers' contingency fees, 'no win, no fee' in common parlance.

Tags: **International, Medical Liability**