



January 9, 2012

Legal Reform News Daily

Federal Judge Declines to Halt \$18 Billion Ecuadorean Judgment

Law.com | Jan 09, 2012

A federal judge said Friday he is not yet willing to block collection of an \$18 billion court judgment against the energy giant Chevron for environmental damage in an Ecuadorean rain forest despite claims by Chevron that it faces imminent irreparable harm to its holdings around the world if U.S. courts do not intervene.

Tags: [Environmental Litigation, Ecuador](#)

An Oily Case: Chevron's Never-Ending, Record-Breaking Lawsuit in Ecuador

Time | Jan 09, 2012

Protesters hold signs at a demonstration outside Chevron headquarters last February. The company is embroiled in a long-running lawsuit over oil pollution in Ecuador. How long has the legal battle between indigenous groups in the Ecuadorean Amazon and the oil giant Chevron been going on? So long that Texaco-the company originally accused of dumping 18 billion gallons of toxic sludge in and around the Ecuadorean town of Lago Agrio-no longer exists, having been acquired by Chevron in 2001.

Tags: [Environmental Litigation, Ecuador](#)

Chevron Stymied in Ecuador Case

Wall Street Journal | Jan 09, 2012

Chevron Corp. suffered a setback in a U.S. court Friday in its attempt to keep a group of Ecuadoreans from collecting a multibillion-dollar judgment over environmental damage in that country.

Tags: [Environmental Litigation, Ecuador](#)

NLRB rules workers can pursue group claims in court, bypassing arbitration

Washington Post | Jan 09, 2012

Employers can't require workers to sign arbitration agreements that prevent them from pursuing group claims in court, the National Labor Relations Board said Friday, in a decision that some experts say could have wide repercussions.

Tags: [Arbitration - ADR](#)

Whistleblowers earn a record \$532 million in 2011

Reuters | Jan 09, 2012

Whistleblowers earned more than \$532 million in 2011 through lawsuits alleging fraud against the U.S. government, a record for such payouts, according to a law firm study published on Friday.

Tags: [Government Contracts & Whistleblower Legislation, Lawsuit Abuse](#)

Impact, Legal Ethics, Securities Litigation, Trial Lawyers' Influence

Judge grants 6 percent charge to lawyers for oil spill settlements

Legal Newsline | Jan 09, 2012

U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier exiled Louisiana Attorney General Buddy Caldwell from Deepwater Horizon litigation and granted plaintiff lawyers a 6 percent charge on \$14 billion in future settlements at BP's Gulf Coast Claims Facility.

Tags: **Class Action, Environmental Litigation**

SEC Changes 'Neither Admit nor Deny' Policy

Law.com | Jan 09, 2012

The Securities and Exchange Commission will stop letting companies and individuals say they "neither admit nor deny" wrongdoing in a civil case when they admit to related criminal charges.

Tags: **Securities Litigation**

Borders Gift-Card Holders Demand Payment

Wall Street Journal | Jan 09, 2012

Borders closed the last of its giant bookstores in September. But some readers didn't get the memo.

Tags: **Class Action, Trial Lawyers' Influence**

Egos Aside, Trial Lawyers Are Pretty Good at Predicting Verdicts

Wall Street Journal Law Blog | Jan 09, 2012

How good are you, experienced civil trial lawyer, at predicting jury verdicts? We imagine a few of you are known around the firm for your preternatural eye for separating the good cases from the dogs, for knowing when to settle and when to press on, or you're known for thinking you have this talent and telling everyone so.

Tags: **Class Action, Lawsuit Abuse Impact, Legal Ethics, Trial Lawyers' Influence**

County board member and chief judge argue over asbestos docket at judiciary meeting

Madison St. Clair Record | Jan 09, 2012

Madison County Board Member Mike Walters told Madison County Chief Judge Ann Callis and members of the county judiciary meeting Friday morning that being on the (American Tort Reform Association's) Judicial Hellhole list "scares the hell out of me."

Tags: **Class Action, Illinois, Lawsuit Abuse Impact, Trial Lawyers' Influence**

Lawmakers Discuss Tort Reform in Legislative LookAhead

State Journal | Jan 09, 2012

Lawmakers said West Virginia needs more predictability in its court system during the Jan. 5 Legislative LookAhead. House Minority Leader Tim Armstead, R-Kanawha, said although a number of measures have been put in place to help the state's judicial climate, more needs to be done.

Tags: **Lawsuit Abuse Impact, West Virginia**