



DATE: September 20, 2013

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[Ukraine's Cabinet Backs EU Association Agreement](#) The Ukrainian government has approved the draft of an Association Agreement with the European Union. The government's press service says the document was approved unanimously by the cabinet on September 18. The head of the EU delegation in Ukraine, Jan Tombinski, told reporters in Kyiv that the agreement's approval represented an "important step" by the Ukrainian government and that its signing at a summit in Vilnius in November "will be a joint success of all citizens of Ukraine and the EU." **Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.** [Read More.](#)

[Facebook 'likes' are protected free speech, says court](#) In 2009, Sheriff BJ Roberts was struggling for re-election. Adding insult to injury, when he went to his opponent's page on Facebook, he found that six of his deputies had "liked" the page, signing on to the campaign to remove him from office. After he won reelection, he held a grudge and fired all six men. Now courts are facing a sticky question: was it legal? "The internet equivalent of displaying a political sign." The question is whether Facebook likes qualify for free speech protection, and this morning, the court of appeals for the Fourth Circuit ruled that they do, overturning an earlier ruling which held that free speech required a more significant public act than clicking a button. **The Verge.** [Read More.](#)

[Lawsuit over Bob Marley recordings renewed after court ruling](#) A U.S. appeals court Wednesday revived legal action between music giant Universal and a small media company over rights to distribute remixes of early recordings by reggae icon Bob Marley. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California ruled that a previously-dismissed lawsuit can go to trial over the Marley and the Wailers tracks, recorded before the music legend signed with Universal's Island Records in 1972. **The Raw Story.** [Read More.](#)

[FISA Court Orders Declassification Review of Select Rulings](#) Over the objection of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court today ordered the government to conduct a declassification review of rulings that address the provision of federal law that allowed the government to collect data on hundreds of millions of phone calls. The American Civil Liberties Union in June asked the surveillance court to disclose opinions that evaluate the "meaning, scope and constitutionality" of Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act. Under that provision, the National Security Agency obtains phone record data, including the time and duration of calls, from major telecommunications companies. **The Blog of Legal Times.** [Read More.](#)

[Ex-NSA GC on Snowden, Security, and Privacy](#) Former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden's leaks earlier this year about the U.S. government's surveillance activities unleashed a flood of concerns about U.S. privacy protections. CorpCounsel.com last week discussed Snowden's revelations and the fallout from them with [Steptoe & Johnson LLP](#) partner Stewart Baker, who served as National Security Agency general counsel from 1992 to 1994. **The Blog of Legal Times.** [Read More.](#)

[Arizona Supreme Court voids law giving governor more choices in judicial selection](#) The Arizona Supreme Court has struck down a new law designed to give the governor a greater say in the selection of judges. The court, in a unanimous ruling Friday, said the law, which directs a judicial nominating commission to submit at least five nominees to the governor for each judicial vacancy unless the commission rejects an applicant by a two-thirds vote, conflicts with the state constitution, which requires the commission to recommend "not less than three" nominees for each vacancy. "When a state statute conflicts with Arizona's Constitution, the constitution must prevail," Vice Chief Justice Scott Bales [wrote](#) (PDF) for the court. **ABA Journal.** [Read More.](#)

[Next big case on campaign contribution limits likely depends on chief justice's vote](#) A pending Supreme Court case that seeks to eliminate aggregate limits on federal campaign contributions by individual donors is likely to depend on the vote of Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. Legal experts believe the limits are likely to be struck down unless Roberts votes to save them, [USA Today](#) reports. Currently the aggregate limit for donations to candidates, parties and political action committees is \$123,200 over a two-year period. **ABA Journal.** [Read More.](#)

[Law students may work as unpaid interns on pro bono matters for law firms, Labor Department says](#) Law students may work as unpaid interns on pro bono matters at law firms, provided certain conditions are met, according to a letter sent to the ABA by the Labor Department. The [letter](#) (PDF) by the Labor Department's solicitor, M. Patricia Smith, is a response to then-ABA President Laurel Bellows, who [sought assurances in May](#) that the agency would interpret the Fair Labor Standards Act to allow such internships. Current ABA President James Silkenat says the ABA appreciates the Labor Department's stance. **ABA Journal.** [Read More.](#)

[Investigation Spurs Swift Response on Tax Sale Reform](#) A recent investigation into how the District of Columbia manages the sale of properties with delinquent taxes sparked calls for action this week by local politicians-more than a year after a coalition of lawyers and advocates pushed for reform.*The Washington Post* published a [series of articles](#) this week highlighting problems with the tax sale system that forced residents into foreclosure over relatively small amounts of unpaid taxes. Mayor Vincent Gray (D) and other council members expressed shock at the report's findings, calling for emergency legislation. **The Blog Of Legal Times.** [Read More.](#)

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