

From: "McKinley, Lila" <Lila.McKinley@ct.gov>

To: "Anderson, Caitlin" <Caitlin.Anderson@ct.gov>, "Cafferelli, Bryan" <Bryan.Cafferelli@ct.gov>

Subject: RE: Conn. Pot Licensing Program Is Discriminatory, Suit Says

Date: Thu, 16 Oct 2025 16:18:37 +0000

Importance: Normal

From: Anderson, Caitlin <Caitlin.Anderson@ct.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 12:13 PM

To: McKinley, Lila <Lila.McKinley@ct.gov>; Cafferelli, Bryan <Bryan.Cafferelli@ct.gov>

Subject: FW: Conn. Pot Licensing Program Is Discriminatory, Suit Says

FYI

From: Blake, Jonathan <Jonathan.Blake@ct.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 8:41 AM

To: Anderson, Caitlin <Caitlin.Anderson@ct.gov>; Collazo Cruz, Mariedy <Mariedy.CollazoCruz@ct.gov>; McGee, Brandon <Brandon.McGee@ct.gov>; Bennett, Jennifer P <Jennifer.P.Bennett@ct.gov>

Cc: Wertheimer, Michael <Michael.Wertheimer@ct.gov>

Subject: FW: Conn. Pot Licensing Program Is Discriminatory, Suit Says

All – We received a courtesy copy of the attached complaint naming Gov. Lamont, AG Tong and Comm'r Cafferelli as defendants. The plaintiffs are hemp farmers and a hemp processor who are challenging the Social Equity Council's use of residency as a criterion for social equity approval, claiming that it violates the dormant commerce clause. There is a recent 2nd Circuit case that struck down part of NY's law that used residency as a criterion. As far as we know the complaint has not been served upon our office yet. Opposing counsel is the same attorney who has brought two other lawsuits in federal court challenging CT's adult-use cannabis statutes. Our section will likely be defending this lawsuit. Also attached is a Law360 article about the lawsuit. Jon

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Connecticut

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025



TOP NEWS

[Conn. Pot Licensing Program Is Discriminatory, Suit Says](#)

By Jonathan Capriel

A would-be cannabis grower is challenging Connecticut's marijuana licensing program, claiming it unconstitutionally prioritizes in-state "social equity" applicants "above all others" in direct violation of the dormant commerce clause, according to a federal lawsuit.

 Complaint attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

[Feds Drop 1 Lying Count Amid Ex-Budget Official's Trial](#)

By Aaron Keller

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday dropped one charge against Connecticut school construction official Kosta Diamantis, releasing him from allegations that he lied to the FBI when he allegedly said he didn't care who was hired to manage an emergency school construction project in Tolland.

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[Brown Paindiris & Scott Eyes Deal In Data Breach Suit](#)

By Brian Steele

After the defense pointed to ongoing discussions that could lead to a "resolution," a Connecticut federal judge has agreed to stretch a deadline for Brown Paindiris & Scott LLP to respond to a proposed class action complaint that accuses the law firm of waiting more than a year to notify clients of a 2023 data breach.

 Motion attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

[Conn. Hospital Had Cause To Fire Lawmaker, Judge Confirms](#)

By Brian Steele

A Connecticut judge has confirmed an arbitrator's finding that Norwalk Hospital had "just cause" to fire a now-former state lawmaker, Anabel Figueroa, from her job as a unit coordinator after she made allegedly antisemitic remarks on the campaign trail.

 2 documents attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

[Hawaiian Tropic Sunscreen Maker Hit With SPF False Ad Suit](#)

By Mike Curley

A proposed class of consumers is suing the makers of a Hawaiian Tropic-branded sunscreen in Connecticut federal court, saying despite the product being advertised as having a sun protection factor, or SPF, of 50, laboratory testing shows it only offers the protection of SPF 20.

 Complaint attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

[Conn. Justice To Leave High Court For Judicial Admin Role](#)

By Christine DeRosa

A vacancy is set to open on the Connecticut Supreme Court as Justice Joan K. Alexander transitions to a new role next month as the state judiciary's top administrator, according to an email shared with Law360 on Wednesday.

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LITIGATION

[States Seek To Revive FEMA's Disaster-Mitigation Funding](#)

By Ganesh Setty

A group of 22 states and the District of Columbia urged a Massachusetts federal court Wednesday to block the Trump administration's termination of a disaster

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mitigation program under the Federal Emergency Management Agency, arguing such authority lies with Congress.

 Memorandum attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

[States Want To Keep Eye On \\$14B HPE-Juniper Deal Review](#)

By Nadia Dreid

The Justice Department is in the middle of trying to settle its challenge to Hewlett Packard Enterprise's \$14 billion purchase of Juniper Networks, but a dozen states are now trying to get involved and have asked a California federal judge to allow them to intervene in the litigation.

 Motion attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

SECOND CIRCUIT

[2nd Circ. Won't Block NY Ammo Sales Background Check Law](#)

By Mike Curley

The Second Circuit on Wednesday decided not to block enforcement of a New York law requiring background checks for ammunition sales, finding the "mere inconveniences" of a potential delay and a \$2.50 fee don't meaningfully constrain the plaintiffs' Second Amendment rights.

 Opinion attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

EXPERT ANALYSIS

Opinion

[Courts Must Continue Protecting Plaintiffs In Mass Arbitration](#)

In recent years, many companies have imposed onerous protocols that function to frustrate plaintiffs' ability to seek justice through mass arbitration, but a series of welcome court decisions in recent months indicate that the pendulum might be swinging back toward plaintiffs, say Raphael Janove and Sasha Jones at Janove Law.

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Series

[Law School's Missed Lessons: Client Service](#)

Law school teaches you how to interpret the law, but it doesn't teach you some of the key ways to keeping clients satisfied, lessons that I've learned in the most unexpected of places: a book on how to be a butler, says Gregory Ramos at Armstrong Teasdale.

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LEGAL INDUSTRY

[Ex-WH Ethics Attys Slam 'Vindictive' Comey, James Charges](#)

By Jack Karp

Three former White House ethics attorneys have filed complaints with the U.S. Department of Justice over what they call the "vindictive and meritless" criminal prosecutions of former FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James.

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[Jack Smith And Other Ex-DOJ Staffers Slam Trump Purge](#)

By Lauren Berg

Former U.S. Department of Justice employees, including former special counsel Jack Smith, spoke out Wednesday in support of colleagues fired or forced to resign by the Trump administration, issuing a warning about the "existential crisis" born from efforts to use the agency to punish the president's political opponents.

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[High Court Leans Toward Limiting Voting Rights Act Suits](#)

By Katie Buehler

The U.S. Supreme Court's conservative supermajority seemed ready Wednesday to further limit the use of the Voting Rights Act in challenging alleged racial discrimination in legislative redistricting, but appeared divided over how to accomplish that.

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[Vought Aims To Close CFPB Within '2 Or 3 Months'](#)

By Jon Hill

White House budget chief Russell Vought said Wednesday that he wants to shutter the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and expects to succeed in the next few months, despite the Trump administration's claims in court that the agency is just being downsized.

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[DHS Says Seizure Of Atty's Phone Tied To Employment Probe](#)

By Julie Manganis

The government is pushing back on a Massachusetts immigration attorney's allegations that his work phone was seized in retaliation for his criticism of the Trump administration and advocacy for noncitizens, saying it's looking into whether he violated federal employment verification laws.

 Memorandum attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

[Goldstein Can't Dismiss 2016 Tax Charges As Time-Barred](#)

By Jared Foretek

A Maryland federal judge denied SCOTUSblog co-founder Tom Goldstein's motion to dismiss four of the 22 federal tax charges brought against him in January, ruling that his defense that the counts stemming from the 2016 tax year should be time-barred will have to be raised at trial.

 Opinion attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

[Chief Judge Bars Civil Arrests In Cook County Courts](#)

By Celeste Bott

Cook County's top judge issued an order Wednesday prohibiting the warrantless civil arrest of individuals attending court proceedings in Chicago-area state courthouses, as the federal government has ramped up immigration enforcement and arrests in the area.

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 Order attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

[NY Court Tosses Most Of Ex-Lil Wayne Atty's Contract Claims](#)

By Emily Sawicki

A New York state judge has dismissed most counterclaims a former attorney for Lil Wayne pursued in a fee dispute with his ex-client, but the lawyer may still attempt to collect some funds he claims to be owed by the rap star.

 1 document attached | [Read full article »](#) | [Save to favorites »](#)

[Some Federal Workers Win Quick Block On Shutdown Layoffs](#)

By Bonnie Eslinger

A California federal judge on Wednesday granted a request from two unions representing thousands of federal workers to immediately block the Trump administration from laying them off during the government shutdown, saying she believes the plaintiffs will show that "what's being done here is both illegal and is in excess of authority."

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