

In Case You Missed It: Hottest Firms and Stories On Law360

Law360, New York (December 17, 2016, 12:21 AM EST) -- For those who missed out, here's a look back at the law firms, stories and expert analyses that generated the most buzz on Law360 last week.

10 Most Mentioned Firms

1. Kirkland & Ellis LLP
2. Gibson Dunn
3. Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP
4. Jones Day
5. Latham & Watkins LLP
5. Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP
7. Greenberg Traurig LLP
7. Hogan Lovells
9. DLA Piper
9. Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP

10 Most Read Articles

1. Idenix Wins \$2.5B Verdict In Gilead Hep C Drug Patent Fight

A federal jury took less than two hours Thursday to award Idenix Pharmaceuticals LLC a \$2.54 billion royalty share of Gilead Sciences Inc.'s profits from two blockbuster hepatitis C drugs, after almost nine days of courtroom battling over claims that included willful patent infringement by Gilead.

2. Why BigLaw Can't Keep Hiking Fees To Raise Revenue

A consistent trend has emerged since the Great Recession in which firms raise rates to drive revenue while demand for their services remains mostly flat, driving clients to bring more work in-house — a cycle experts say law firms need to break in order to thrive. Here, experts offer insight into how firms can adapt their practices.

3. Prenda Porn Troll Attys Charged With Fraud Scheme

The ringleaders of Prenda Law, a group long accused of so-called porn trolling, have been arrested and charged with running an elaborate scheme to extort millions in fraudulent settlements.

4. Jury Clears Arista In Cisco's \$335M IP Infringement Suit

A California federal jury handed Arista Networks Inc. victory Wednesday in a \$335 million copyright and patent infringement suit brought by Cisco Systems Inc., finding Arista's popular Ethernet switches are shielded from infringement claims by the scènes à faire doctrine.

5. Injured Williams & Connolly Lawyer Sues DC Metro For \$50M

A Williams & Connolly senior associate is suing the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority for \$50 million after being struck in the head by a large falling metal pole at a D.C. metro station that left him unable to work, according to a complaint in D.C. federal court.

6. 4 Firms That Landed In Court Over Client Conflicts

Whether conflicts arise because of busy law firms, litigious clients or unlikely connections, it's not uncommon for a firm to face the heat because it's represented two clients that are now facing off — and conflict waivers don't always save the day. Here are four recent examples that ended up in front of a judge.

7. DOJ Charges 2 Execs In Generic Drug Price-Fixing Plot

The U.S. Department of Justice on Wednesday accused the former top executives of Heritage Pharmaceuticals of plotting to fix prices of antibiotics and diabetes treatments, marking the first charges in the watchdog's criminal probe of the generic drug industry.

8. Apple Hit With \$7.3M Verdict In Core Wireless Patent Suit

A California federal jury found Thursday that Apple Inc.'s iPads and iPhones infringe two of Core Wireless Licensing SARL's mobile communication patents, awarding Core Wireless \$7.3 million in damages in a long-running fight over technology that purportedly allows Apple's products to work "wherever, and whenever."

9. NY Firm Offers Support Staff Additional Special Bonus

As BigLaw firms reward associates for their hard work with bonuses climbing up to and above \$100,000, one law firm has recognized the hard work of its support staff, rewarding them with a "special bonus" on top of their usual year-end one, a memo made public on Thursday shows.

10. Supreme Court Agrees To Hear Patent Venue Case

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed Wednesday to hear a case seeking restrictions on where patent lawsuits can be filed, taking up an appeal from TC Heartland LLC that threatens patent owners' ability to seek out favorable courts, and could effectively bar most suits from the patent hotbed of East Texas.

10 Most Read Expert Analyses

1. The Horrible Conflict Between Biology And Women Attorneys

Women leave law firms for many of the same reasons men do, but also face challenges including headwinds with respect to assignment delegation and social outings, as well as potential disruptions if they choose to have children. Firms can increase investment in talent management and improve retention and engagement of women attorneys, says Anusia Gillespie of Banava Consulting.

2. 3 Tips To Avoid Being On The Outs With In-House Counsel

When trial lawyers fail to recognize the unique challenges faced by in-house counsel, it jeopardizes not only the outcome of the case, but also the opportunities for future representation. These few simple strategies are hardly rocket science, but they are too often neglected, says Matthew Whitley of Beck Redden LLP.

3. Rules Of Civil Procedure Updates Affect E-Discovery

On Dec. 1, 2016, the annual updates to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure went into effect. Revisions include the end of the three-day "mail rule" extension for electronically served discovery, an amendment regarding service of internationally based corporate defendants, and a technical change regarding venues in maritime law actions, say Patrick Reilly and Eldin Hasic of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP.

4. Employee/Experts Not Shielded By Attorney-Client Privilege

When a client's product is at issue in court, and a relevant expert witness is not available, an employee may sometimes be tapped to fill this role. This can be a useful strategy, but it comes with a downside: much of the prep work with the now-expert might be discoverable, says Stephen McConnell of Reed Smith LLP.

5. A Trademark Year In Wine And Beer 2016: Part 1

Are you looking to avoid talking about politics at your annual seasonal gathering with friends and family? David Kluff of Foley Hoag LLP has you covered with over 150 diversionary legal anecdotes about this year's biggest beer and wine trademark dispute cases.

6. The Path To The California Bench

Ever consider applying for a judicial appointment in California? Get the lay of the land from Judge George Bird of the Los Angeles Superior Court and Kimberly Knill, a senior appellate court attorney for the California Court of Appeal. Additionally, hear what several recent appointees to the LA Superior Court thought of the judicial selection process.

7. Parable Of A Patent Troll And Its Prodigal Software Patent

Intellectual Ventures recently filed for a rehearing en banc in Intellectual Ventures LLC v. Symantec Corp. and Trend Micro Inc. for a decision made in the Federal Circuit that invalidated three of its software patents. The invalidation of the patents came as no surprise to most in the industry, but a notable concurrence has turned heads, says Rachael Wallace of Cozen O'Connor LLP.

8. Key Trade Secret Developments Of 2016: Part 1

This year brought significant developments in trade secret law, the most important of which was the passage of the long-awaited federal Defend Trade Secrets Act. In the few months since the act took effect, litigants have already asserted DTSA claims in more than 75 federal cases, say attorneys with Faegre Baker Daniels LLP.

9. Samsung V. Apple: Impacts Beyond Damages

Last week, in Samsung v. Apple, the U.S. Supreme Court decided its first design patent case in over a century. The intellectual underpinnings of what seems on the surface to be a simple decision may, in fact, turn out to have a broader disruptive impact, say Courtland Reichman and Bahrad Sokhansanj of McKool Smith Hennigan PC.

10. Learning The Limits (And Irony) Of Spokeo

In Mocek v. AllSaints an Illinois federal court recently provided an important lesson to the defense bar on the limits of trying to use Spokeo to escape class actions. We hope that this ruling will go a long way towards correcting a misunderstanding of Spokeo's impact shared by many members of the defense bar, say Roger Perlstadt and Jay Edelson of Edelson PC.