

This Week in Law

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CASE LAWS

CIVIL

SUPREME COURT

Registration of Will is not compulsory, and unregistered Will should not automatically be treated as suspicious.

Parvathi Nairthi (Dead) & Ors. vs. Laxmi Nairthy (Dead) Through LRs. & Ors., Dated: 21.05.2026 (MANU/SC/0510/2026; 2026 INSC 521)

The Supreme Court has reaffirmed that the **non-registration of a Will by itself cannot create suspicion about its genuineness**, stressing that Indian law does not make registration of Wills compulsory. The Court noted that a large number of Wills in India are executed without being officially registered. A bench made the observation while upholding a man's Will in favour of his sister and rejecting allegations by his wife and children that the document was fabricated.

SUPREME COURT

Landowners cannot be compelled to give up legal compensation to receive other statutory benefits

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation & Ors. vs. Vijay Nagar Apartments & Ors., Dated: 20.05.2026 (MANU/SC/0501/2026; 2026 INSC 517)

The Supreme Court has ruled that civic authorities **cannot compel landowners to waive their statutory right to compensation as a condition for receiving another statutory benefit**. A bench observed that once a law grants compensation, it cannot be treated as surrendered through contractual conditions imposed by authorities. The Court dismissed the appeal filed by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and upheld the High Court's decision allowing the landowner to claim compensation under the MRTDP Act without forfeiting any part of it for grant of Transferable Development Rights (TDR).

ANDHRA PRADESH HIGH COURT

No separate government notification is required to reduce minimum value of commercial disputes to ₹3 lakh after 2018 amendment.

3F Industries Limited & Ors. vs. Transparent Technologies Solutions Private Limited & Ors., Dated: 18.05.2026 (MANU/AP/0833/2026)

The Full Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court has clarified that after the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, reducing the “specified value” for commercial disputes from ₹1 crore to ₹3 lakh, the new threshold becomes operational without needing any separate notification from the Central Government. The Court explained that the **amendment itself is sufficient to apply the reduced minimum value for filing commercial suits, and no additional official notification is required to activate it.**

CONSTITUTION

SUPREME COURT

Rabid or dangerous stray dogs can be euthanised; no criminal case against officials acting in good faith

In Re: City Hounded by Strays, Kids Pay Price vs. The State of Andhra Pradesh, Dated: 19.05.2026 (MANU/SC/0497/2026; 2026 INSC 506)

The Supreme Court has directed that **criminal proceedings should not ordinarily be initiated against authorities or officials implementing measures to control stray dog attacks in good faith.** A bench observed that rabid, incurably ill or dangerously aggressive stray dogs may be euthanised, subject to assessment by qualified veterinary experts and in compliance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023.

SUPREME COURT

Asking accused to participate in reconstruction of crime scene cannot be treated as violation of constitutional rights in all circumstances.

The State of Tamil Nadu vs. Ponnusamy & Ors., Dated: 19.05.2026 (MANU/SC/0498/2026; 2026 INSC 507)

The Supreme Court has ruled that crime scene re-enactment is a legitimate investigative technique in heinous crimes and **cannot be rejected as unconstitutional merely because it involves the participation of the accused.** The Court clarified that such re-enactments violate Article 20(3) of the Constitution only when the accused is compelled to disclose incriminating facts based on personal knowledge.

JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH HIGH COURT

Refuses abortion of 27-week pregnancy of minor rape survivor says protection of life and medical risk take priority over termination at advanced stage

Minor Victim “X”, aged about 14 years, through her natural guardian/father Mr. A. vs. Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors., Dated: 21.05.2026 (MANU/JK/0350/2026)

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has denied permission to end the 27-week pregnancy of a 14-year-old rape survivor, stating that the **right to life must be given greater importance at such an advanced stage of pregnancy.** The Court noted that medical experts had cautioned that abortion at this stage could lead to severe, life-threatening complications and permanent health damage for the minor. While recognising that the pregnancy resulted from sexual assault, the Court observed that **Article 21 of the Constitution safeguards both reproductive choice and the right to life and survival.** Therefore, considering the medical and legal factors, the Court rejected the plea under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, prioritising the safety of the pregnant girl over termination.

SUPREME COURT

Mere absence of accused's name in inquest report does not by itself establish innocence

Bhagat Singh vs. The State of Uttar Pradesh & Anr., Dated: 22.05.2026 (MANU/SC/0518/2026; 2026 INSC 527)

The Supreme Court has held that **mere non-mention of an accused in the inquest report cannot by itself be treated as proof of innocence or a ground for granting bail** when other materials indicate *prima facie* involvement in the offence. A bench set aside an Allahabad High Court order granting bail to a murder accused solely because his name was absent from the inquest proceedings.

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

Under Section 223 BNSS, accused must be given pre-cognizance hearing before court takes cognizance, and this applies even to NDPS Act cases.

Shatrughan Kumar vs. Narcotics Control Bureau Through Its Regional Office, Lucknow, Dated: 19.05.2026 (MANU/UP/0833/2026; 2026:AHC-LKO:35815)

The Allahabad High Court has held that, after the coming into force of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, an accused person **must be given an opportunity of hearing before a Special Court takes cognizance of a complaint filed** by an authority under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The Court relying on the first proviso to Section 223(1) BNSS, observed that the provision makes a pre-cognizance hearing of the accused mandatory in complaint cases. The Court clarified that this safeguard cannot be bypassed once BNSS is applicable.

DELHI HIGH COURT

Professional services cannot be used for personal gain, denies bail in DMAT fraud case

Varun Arora (In JC) vs. The State of NCT of Delhi, Dated: 18.05.2026 (MANU/DE/3958/2026; 2026: DHC:4415)

The Delhi High Court has refused bail to a finance company employee accused of fraudulently transferring shares of 18 clients into his own Dematerialised Account (DMAT), observing that **professional services cannot be extended for the professional's own benefit**. The Court while dismissing the bail plea noted that the allegations disclosed serious misuse of fiduciary access and trust. The accused was booked under Sections 318(4), 336(3), 340(2) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, relating to cheating, forgery and use of forged documents.

SUPREME COURT

Burden lies on plaintiff to show that GPA-based property transaction was intended to secure loan rather than transfer ownership, and simple claims of cheating or fraud cannot succeed without evidence.

Mallika vs. R. Nallathambi & Ors., Dated: 22.05.2026 (MANU/SC/0520/2026; 2026 INSC 529)

The Supreme Court ruled that the **burden of proof lies on the plaintiff to establish that the GPA transactions were loan security arrangements rather than genuine property sales**, clarifying that courts cannot presume fraud solely on the basis of accusations. Dismissing an appeal in a property dispute from Tamil Nadu, the Court observed that mere allegations of fraud, fiduciary misuse, or abuse of trust are insufficient without convincing proof.

DELHI HIGH COURT

Once probate is granted, Will does not need to be proved again under Section 68 of Evidence Act.

Mr. Dileep Singh vs. Smt. Girija Devi, Dated: 21.05.2026 (MANU/DE/3917/2026; 2026:DHC: 4568)

The Delhi High Court has held that **once probate is granted in respect of a Will, it does not need to be proved again in later civil proceedings under Section 68 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872**. The Court clarified that Section 68 requires a Will to be proved through at least one attesting witness before it is accepted as evidence, but this requirement stands satisfied once probate is issued by a competent court.

FAMILY

CALCUTTA HIGH COURT

Woman married under Muslim rites entitled to interim maintenance; validity of marriage to be decided by trial court

Bonoshree Hazra @ Mollah vs. The State of West Bengal & Anr., Dated: 18.05.2026 (MANU/WB/1064/2026; 2026:CHC-AS:751)

The Calcutta High Court has observed that a **woman and her minor son cannot be denied interim maintenance at the initial stage when there is prima facie evidence of marriage and paternity**. The Court held that disputes regarding the validity of a marriage such as one conducted under Muslim rites involving a Hindu woman must be decided through a full trial or civil proceedings based on evidence. It further noted that such issues cannot be used to refuse interim relief, and the challenge to the relationship can only be examined at the stage of final adjudication.

PROPERTY

SUPREME COURT

Separate final decree application is not required when preliminary decree itself clearly provides methods to be followed if physical partition of property is not possible

Jennifer Messias vs. Leonard G. Lobo, Dated: 18.05.2026 (MANU/SC/0489/2026; 2026 INSC 502)

The Supreme Court observed that a **preliminary decree in a partition suit does not become inexecutable merely because no separate application for a final decree under Order XX Rule 18 CPC was filed**, especially when the decree itself provided that the property should be auctioned if physical partition by metes and bounds was not possible. The Court noted that such directions gave the decree the character of a final decree as well. A bench was hearing a case arising from the Madhya Pradesh High Court, which had twice interfered with the execution proceedings.

SERVICE

SUPREME COURT

Employees cannot be denied regularisation merely because their initial appointment was temporary or not against a sanctioned post

Sukhendu Bhattacharjee & Others vs. The State of Assam & Others, Dated: 21.05.2026 (MANU/SC/0509/2026; 2026 INSC 523)

The Supreme Court has held that employees cannot be denied consideration for regularisation merely because their initial appointments were temporary or not made against sanctioned posts. The Court observed that **workers who have served continuously for years in regular government functions are entitled to consideration for regularisation**. A bench allowed the appeals of Assam government workers who had served for over a decade on muster rolls but were denied regularisation.

SUPREME COURT

Government employees cannot claim promotion under old service rules merely because vacancy arose before new rules came into force.

State of Odisha & Ors. vs. Sreepati Ranjan Dash, Dated: 18.05.2026 (MANU/SC/O488/2026; 2026 INSC 505)

The Supreme Court cleared that government employees cannot claim promotion under old service rules merely because vacancies arose before new rules were introduced. The Court observed that **the government has the authority to change the method and criteria for promotion, including converting promotional posts into selection-based posts, so long as the changes are not arbitrary.** In the case, employees from the State Transport Department sought promotion to the post of Assistant Regional Transport Officer on the basis of earlier rules, but the State denied the claim after restructuring the cadre and changing the selection process.

KERALA HIGH COURT

Person registered and practising as doctor is not eligible to join legal profession without first giving up their medical registration.

T.M. Manju vs. Bar Council of Kerala & Ors., Dated: 18.05.2026 (MANU/KE/O941/2026; 2026:KER:33781)

The Kerala High Court has held that a **registered Homoeopathic practitioner cannot enroll as an advocate unless he first cancels his registration as a medical practitioner.** The Court delivered the judgment while dismissing a challenge against the decision of the Bar Council of Kerala, which had refused to enroll a Homoeopathic doctor as an advocate on the ground that her name continued to remain in the register of medical practitioners, and the Court upheld that one cannot simultaneously retain medical registration and seek entry into the legal profession.

BANKING

19.05.2026 The **Supreme Court** has observed that banks are often lenient while sanctioning huge loans to big corporations but impose strict conditions and cumbersome procedures on ordinary borrowers, at times leading to “borderline harassment”.

CIVIL

21.05.2026 The **Karnataka High Court** has recorded a French national’s undertaking to leave India after allegations that he violated tourist visa norms by operating a restaurant in Gokarna for over 15 years.

20.05.2026 The **Supreme Court** has dismissed a plea challenging the Centre’s decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming Census, stating that the government needs data on backward castes to formulate welfare policies.

18.05.2026 The **Andhra Pradesh High Court** has observed that no separate government notification is required to reduce the pecuniary threshold for commercial disputes to Rs. 3 lakh following the 2018 amendment.

The **High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** has observed that a structure raised in good faith by a purchaser on migrant-owned land cannot, by itself, justify indefinite withholding of sale deed registration, especially when the structure does not belong to the vendor.

COMPETITION LAW

22.05.2026 The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has closed a long running case against 12 Delhi NCR private hospitals accused of overcharging patients through in-house pharmacies and diagnostic services. The CCI observed that admitted patients often have limited choice and may pay higher prices for tests and consumables; it found insufficient evidence to prove abuse of dominant position under competition law and therefore ended the proceedings.

CRIMINAL

23.05.2026 The **Supreme Court** has dismissed a plea challenging the Chhattisgarh High Court’s refusal to order a re-postmortem and fresh investigation into the death of Maoist commander Katha Ramchandra Reddy, who was killed in an alleged police encounter in Chhattisgarh in September last year, where the re-postmortem was sought alleging custodial torture due to multiple injuries on the body, thereby upholding the police encounter investigation and declining further judicial intervention in the case.

22.05.2026 The **Supreme Court** has issued a series of directions to strengthen mechanisms for tracing missing children and combating child trafficking, observing that cases suspected to involve trafficking must be transferred immediately to anti-human trafficking units without waiting for the expiry of the four month period.

The **Delhi High Court** has granted three days’ interim bail to Umar Khalid in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act case related to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 North East Delhi riots.

21.05.2026

The **Supreme Court** has observed that courts may proceed with sedition trials and appeals where the accused has no objection.

The **Calcutta High Court** has directed the West Bengal Director General of Police to place on record a Standard Operating Procedure outlining the process for dealing with social media posts targeting judges.

EDUCATION

22.05.2026

The **Supreme Court** has revoked its earlier order barring three academics involved in drafting the controversial NCERT Class 8 chapter on judicial corruption from participating in academic projects of Central and State universities and public educational institutions.

ELECTION

20.05.2026

The **Delhi High Court** has dismissed a PIL seeking the disqualification of AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Durgesh Pathak from contesting elections over criminal contempt proceedings initiated against them by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma.

FAMILY

23.05.2026

The **Supreme Court** has *suo motu* taken cognizance of the alleged dowry death of Twisha Sharma and registered a case titled *In Re: Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of Young Woman at Matrimonial Home* to examine concerns over possible bias and lapses in the investigation.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

19.05.2026

The **News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority** has imposed a fine of ₹25,000 on Zee News for telecasting an intrusive interview with the grieving mother of an accused in a murder case, holding the broadcast violative of ethical broadcasting standards.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

19.05.2026

The **Central Information Commission** has criticized the Department of Personnel and Training and Union Public Service Commission for taking contradictory positions on the disclosure of paper-wise marks of successful Civil Services Examination candidates, stating that the authorities failed to adequately justify why the practice was discontinued after CSE 2017.

TRUST AND SOCIETIES

22.05.2026

An appeal has been moved before the **Supreme Court** challenging the May 15 verdict of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, which held that the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque Complex is a Hindu temple.

18.05.2026

The **Supreme Court** has recalled its earlier April 2025 order that had directed petitioners challenging the constitutional validity of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments laws of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Puducherry to approach the respective High Courts. The court has restored the petitions before itself, meaning it will now hear the constitutional challenge directly instead of sending the cases to High Courts.

NOTIFICATION UPDATES

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Press Release No. : 2026-2027/298, Dated: 20.05.2026,
MANU/RPRL/O296/2026

The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised draft **amendment directions for public consultation on the conduct of regulated entities in loan recovery and engagement of recovery agents**. The amendments incorporate stakeholder feedback and propose technology-based mechanisms for loan recovery. Public comments are invited until the 31st May 2026.

Press Release No. : 2026-2027/290, Dated: 19.05.2026,
MANU/RPRL/O294/2026

The Reserve Bank of India has released **draft amendments to its Capital Adequacy (Basel III) Directions, 2026**, seeking public comments from stakeholders. The proposal mainly aims to refine the framework governing how banks compute and disclose their capital adequacy ratios, with a focus on improving transparency, consistency, and alignment with Basel III Pillar 3 disclosure standards. Public comments are invited until the 2nd June 2026.

Notification No. : DOR.MRG.REC.No.71/00-00-001/2026-2027, Dated:18.05.2026 ,
MANU/RMIC/O197/2026

The Reserve Bank of India has issued **amendments to the 2025 Directions** concerning the **classification, valuation, and operation of investment portfolios for commercial banks**. The amendments include discontinuing the Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR) and reallocating its balance to other reserves or accounts.

Press Release No. : 2026-2027/284, Dated: 18.05.2026,
MANU/RPRL/O293/2026

The Reserve Bank of India has issued **amendment Directions** relating to the **Investment Fluctuation Reserve**, aimed at strengthening banks' resilience against potential losses arising from fluctuations in the value of investment portfolios. The revised directions update the regulatory framework governing maintenance and utilisation of the IFR by banks.

INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA

Notification No. : IBBI/2026-27/GN/REG142, Dated: 19.05.2026,
MANU/NMIC/O128/2026

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India has issued the **IBBI (Liquidation Process) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026** to simplify and expedite the liquidation valuation process, particularly for MSMEs. The amendment revises Regulation 35 by allowing liquidators of MSME corporate debtors to appoint only one registered valuer for each asset class instead of the earlier requirement of two valuers, unless the Consultation Committee decides otherwise with recorded reasons. This change is aimed at reducing costs, improving efficiency, and speeding up liquidation proceedings while retaining flexibility for complex cases.

Notification No. : IBBI/2026-27/GN/REG141, Dated: 19.05.2026,
MANU/NMIC/O129/2026

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India notified the **Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026** to further streamline the corporate insolvency resolution process under the IBC framework. The amendment primarily focuses on improving valuation and compliance mechanisms, including permitting a single set of registered valuers for MSME corporate debtors, strengthening disclosure and procedural requirements, refining timelines and responsibilities of resolution professionals and the Committee of Creditors (CoC), and enhancing transparency and efficiency in CIRP proceedings.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Notification No. : GSR372(E), Dated: 19.05.2026
MANU/FNSV/OO24/2026

The **Debts Recovery Tribunals (Refund of Court Fees) Amendment Rules, 2026**, modifies the 2013 rules to allow either the applicant or both the applicant and defendant to file an application for a refund of court fees, rather than requiring a joint application.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Press Information Bureau, Dated: 19.05.2026,
MANU/PIBU/O690/2026

The NHRC has issued Advisory 2.0 to various ministries and state authorities to enhance the **welfare of transgender persons, focusing on gender-inclusive reforms, education, healthcare, and legal rights**. The advisory includes recommendations for inclusive census data, workplace reforms, and safeguarding rights across various sectors, urging authorities to report on actions taken within two months.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Press Information Bureau, Dated: 19.05.2026,
MANU/PIBU/O687/2026

The Commission for Air Quality Management has activated **Stage-I of the Graded Response Action Plan in Delhi NCR** due to the Air Quality Index reaching the 'Poor' category. This involves implementing a 31-point action plan to mitigate pollution, including measures for construction activities, waste management, traffic regulation, and industrial emissions. Citizens are urged to cooperate and follow guidelines to help improve air quality.

MINISTRY OF POWER

Notification No.: SO2552(E), Dated: 18.05.2026,
MANU/POWR/OO09/2026

The Central Government has notified June 1, 2026, as the date from which the provisions of the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026** relating to the Electricity Act, 2003 will come into effect. The notified changes pertain to serial number 58 and corresponding entries in the Schedule of the Act.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Press Information Bureau, Dated: 21.05.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0696/2026

The **School Management Committee (SMC) Guidelines 2026** aim to enhance community participation and decentralized governance in schools, focusing on creating a supportive learning environment. The Ministry of Education clarified that certain schools not receiving government aid are exempt from these guidelines but are encouraged to form committees for transparency and accountability.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

Press Information Bureau, Dated: 21.05.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0695/2026

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has proposed **amendments to criminalise organised doping activities, targeting traffickers and illegal suppliers**, while protecting athletes from criminal prosecution. The framework aims to address the trafficking and distribution of prohibited substances, ensuring athlete protection and sport integrity.

PATNA HIGH COURT

Notification No.: (X-01-2026)A.D.(Rules) 427 (R), Date: 20.05.2026,
MANU/SNBH/0069/2026

The **High Court of Judicature at Patna**, in exercise of powers conferred under **Articles 225 and 227 of the Constitution of India**, has notified the ***e-Certified Copy Rules of the High Court of Judicature at Patna (1st Amendment), 2026***, which shall come into force from the date **20.05.2026**; the amendment specifically modifies **sub-rule (v) of Rule 4 of the existing e-Certified Copy Rules, 2026**, as part of the Court's ongoing efforts to strengthen and streamline the electronic certified copy issuance system and improve digital judicial administration.

LAW

Notification No. 8/5/2026-LA/141, Date: 18.05.2026,
MANU/SNGA/0100/2026

The Goa Government has promulgated the ***Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (Ordinance No. 05 of 2026)*** to amend the ***Goa Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1974 (Act No. 08 of 1974)***, with immediate effect.

AUSTRALIA

Energy & Natural Resources

Proposed Reforms Aim to Enhance Integrity and Transparency in Australia's Carbon Credit Framework

Australia has proposed significant reforms to strengthen the **integrity, transparency, and efficiency** of its carbon credit framework under the ACCU Scheme. The changes introduce expanded **native title consent requirements**, establish a new **Carbon Abatement Integrity Committee (CAIC)**, and grant broader powers to address **integrity risks and non-compliance**. The reforms also aim to encourage investment in **new carbon reduction technologies** by relaxing certain eligibility requirements for research and development projects.

Employment & Labor

Full Federal Court Clarifies the Limits of the 'Status Quo' Obligation

The Full Federal Court upheld a decision in favour of Opal Packaging Australia, finding that the company **did not breach its enterprise agreement's "status quo" obligations** by introducing changes to its drug and alcohol testing policy during an ongoing workplace dispute. The Court clarified that such obligations are **tied to the conditions existing at the time the dispute is raised** and do not prevent employers from continuing practices already permitted under existing policies. It also noted that **occasional or informal workplace practices are not automatically binding** unless they are **consistent, well-known, and clearly established**. The ruling provides important guidance on **how courts interpret "status quo" clauses in enterprise agreements and workplace disputes**.

Energy & Natural Resources

Federal Budget 2026–27: Key Impact on Australia's Renewable Energy Industry

Australia's 2026–27 Federal Budget takes a **cautious approach toward the renewable energy sector**, focusing more on **system integration and market reforms** rather than major new funding for large-scale renewable projects or transmission infrastructure. The Budget includes measures to support **distributed energy resources such as solar panels, batteries and EVs**, along with **proposed capital gains tax concessions** aimed at attracting foreign investment into renewable infrastructure. However, developers and investors will still rely heavily on **private capital, existing schemes, and commercial agreements** to drive projects forward.

CHINA

Healthcare & Life Sciences

China Introduces New Regulatory Data Protection (RDP) Rules

China's National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) has introduced new **Regulatory Data Protection (RDP) Regulations** to provide **exclusivity protection for undisclosed pharmaceutical trial data**, like systems followed in other countries. These rules can **delay the approval of generic drugs** that seek to rely on protected data. Under the new framework, companies with eligible drug products under review or already approved by the NMPA have only **15 working days from May 15, 2026, to file retroactive applications** for protection. **Missing this deadline could lead to the loss of important RDP rights**. The regulations also specify **different protection periods for various categories of eligible drug products**.

JAPAN

IT & Data Protection

Updates to Vietnam's Legal Framework for Technology Transfers

Vietnam has introduced **major updates to its technology transfer laws** through new legislation and regulations aimed at **modernizing the country's regulatory framework**. The changes expand the scope of transferable technologies to include **digital models, algorithms, and green technologies**, while also updating the list of **encouraged and restricted technologies**. The reforms are intended to **improve transparency, simplify procedures and align Vietnam's laws with current technological and economic developments**. However, businesses may still face **compliance challenges due to unclear registration requirements and procedural uncertainties**.

USA

Arbitration & ADR

U.S. Supreme Court Defines Scope of Federal Court Authority in Post-Arbitration Cases

The U.S. Supreme Court, in **Jules v. Andre Balazs Properties (2026)**, clarified that a **federal court retains authority over a case even after sending it to arbitration through a stay order**. The Court held that the **same federal court can later confirm or reject the arbitration award**, even if the post-arbitration dispute would not independently qualify for federal jurisdiction. This decision **resolves a split among lower courts** and ensures **smoother post-arbitration proceedings** without requiring parties to file a separate case.

SCOTUS Rules Federal Courts Keep Jurisdiction After Referring Cases to Arbitration

In **Jules v. Andre Balazs Properties (2026)**, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that **federal courts retain jurisdiction over a case even after staying it for arbitration under the Federal Arbitration Act (FAA)**. This means the **same court can later confirm or vacate the arbitration of award without requiring a new basis for federal jurisdiction**. The decision clarifies the distinction between **ongoing federal cases and standalone arbitration applications** addressed in earlier rulings like **Vaden** and **Badgerow**. The ruling also **simplifies post-arbitration procedures** and allows parties to return to the **same federal court for enforcement or challenge of arbitral awards**.

Banking

CFPB Issues Final Rule Reducing Small Business Lending Data Reporting Obligations

The **CFPB's 2026 Final Rule** significantly narrows the scope of **small business lending data collection requirements** under Section 1071. The rule raises the reporting threshold from **100 to 1,000 loan originations**, reduces the definition of a small business from **\$5 million to \$1 million in annual revenue**, and removes several previously required data points such as **pricing details, denial reasons, LGBTQI+ status, and application methods**. It also excludes **merchant cash advances, agricultural lending, and small-dollar loans under \$1,000** from coverage. The rule simplifies demographic reporting, sets a single compliance date of **January 1, 2028**, and aims to reduce compliance burdens while maintaining oversight of fair lending practices.

Company & Commercial

Virginia Governor Blocks Proposed Class Action Expansion: Key Implications for Businesses

Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger's veto of **SB 229** has halted the introduction of a new **state court class action system** that could have significantly expanded consumer litigation in Virginia. The proposed Bill aimed to make class action procedures more plaintiff-friendly by easing notice requirements, broadening appeal rights, and modifying the **Virginia Consumer Protection Act (VCPA)**. Businesses were concerned that the law would increase litigation risks, legal costs, and exposure to large consumer claims. With the veto, Virginia will continue operating without a dedicated state-level class action mechanism, keeping stricter federal standards and existing procedural protections in place for businesses.

Construction

Iowa Appeals Court Clarifies Pre-Lien Notice Requirements for Sub-Subcontractors on Commercial Projects

The Iowa Court of Appeals emphasized that **“pre-lien notice must be clear, deliberate, and purposeful”** for sub-subcontractors seeking mechanic lien protection on commercial projects. The court clarified that incidental communications or hidden references in emails are not enough to satisfy Iowa’s statutory notice requirements. The decision reinforces the principle that **mechanic’s lien laws are strictly interpreted**, and failure to properly comply with notice of obligations can result in the loss of lien rights.

Employment & Labor

Illinois’ New Neonatal Intensive Care Leave Law Comes into Force on June 1

Illinois’ **Family Neonatal Intensive Care Leave Act** will take effect on **June 1, 2026**, making Illinois one of the first states to provide **job-protected leave for parents with children in NICU care**. Under the law, eligible employees can receive **10 to 20 days of unpaid neonatal intensive care leave**, depending on the employer’s size. Employees are entitled to return to the same or a substantially equivalent position without losing benefits. The Act also strictly prohibits **retaliation against employees exercising their rights** under the law. Employers are expected to update workplace policies and train HR teams to ensure compliance before the law comes into force.

VIETNAM

IT & Data Protection

Vietnam Updates Legal Framework Governing Technology Transfer Regulations

Vietnam has introduced significant updates to its **technology transfer regulatory framework** to better align with evolving digital and economic trends. The reforms expand the scope of transferable technologies by recognizing **algorithms, digital models, and green technologies**, while also updating the list of technologies that are encouraged or restricted for transfer. The new framework aims to improve **regulatory transparency, administrative efficiency, and compliance processes**, including the introduction of standardized procedural forms. However, businesses may still face challenges due to **unclear registration requirements** and compliance obligations for cross-border technology transfers.

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