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Subject: How Litigation Funding Can Save, And Doom, Poor Plaintiffs

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Access to Justice



How Litigation Funding Can Save, And Doom, Poor Plaintiffs

Companies that give cash advances on lawsuit settlements can help plaintiffs in need, but few are watching this growing industry, leaving a vulnerable population at the mercy of largely unregulated lenders.

[Read full article](#)

Man Beats Murder Charge, And Odds, By Helming Own Case

Eight years into what ultimately became a nearly 13-year prison stint, Hassan Bennett made the rare and often criticized choice to take over as his own counsel as he fought charges for a murder he insisted he didn't commit. This month, however, he finally became a free man.

[Read full article](#)

Can Online 'Pajama Courts' Reshape Justice?

At any given hour of the day, someone in Utah could be wearing pajamas, sitting in bed, sipping a coffee — and handling a legal dispute over a \$500 debt.

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Legal Aid Groups Think Bold To Fill Rural Gaps

Living in a vast state where wide swaths of land are unreachable by road, many Alaskans lack regular access to police, courts and the legal services that concentrate in urban areas. To combat the problem, the Alaska Legal Services Corp. had to accept one fundamental fact.

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Female Defenders Decry Handling Of 'Heinous' Sex Conduct

A lawsuit against Cook County, Illinois is forcing a discussion on how to protect female public defenders from sexual harassment when they visit clients in

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courthouse detention facilities and jails.

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Haggis Case Tests Boundaries Of NYC Gender Violence Law

An appellate case in New York involving rape allegations against movie director Paul Haggis is serving as a showcase for a New York City law against gender-motivated violence, which supporters of the accuser say covers a wider spectrum of crimes than Haggis wants the court to believe.

[Read full article](#)

Mass. Justices Won't Force Probes For Juror Language Bias

Judges aren't required to probe potential jurors for bias against non-English speakers in criminal cases where a defendant uses an interpreter, the Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled, though it urged judges to do so when asked.

[Read full article](#)

Getting Random With Harvard A2J Lab's Greiner

Jim Greiner, director of Harvard University's Access to Justice Lab, wants to bring randomized controlled trials to the practice of law. He says the results could change the delivery of legal services and help those unable to afford lawyers.

[Read full article](#)

Perspectives

Calif. Lawmakers Should Stay Out Of USC Sex Abuse Case

A pending settlement between the University of Southern California and 17,000 former students would resolve claims over the actions of a sexually abusive gynecologist. But proposed state legislation could undermine the settlement, says Shook Hardy partner Phil Goldberg, director of the Progressive Policy Institute's Center for Civil Justice.

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