

**02/16/2012**

## **ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW**

**VO: 22**

A Christian law firm has filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold the constitutionality of Arizona's controversial immigration enforcement statute. The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) is representing 57 members of Congress and more than 65,000 Americans in urging the Supreme Court to overturn a federal appeals court decision that declared the Arizona immigration law unconstitutional. The ACLJ amicus brief contends the decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit should be reversed "because it exalts administrative 'priorities and strategies' over Congress' clear and manifest intent to welcome state involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration law." Jordan Sekulow, executive director of the ACLJ, says the case has major ramifications.

## **FORECLOSURE RATES**

**VO :19**

The number of Americans at risk of foreclosure is declining, as more homeowners climb out of debt and find steady work. The Mortgage Bankers Association said Thursday that 7.58 percent of homeowners missed at least one mortgage payment in the October-December quarter. In a normal market, the percentage of delinquent borrowers is about 1.1 percent, according to the trade group. Delinquent mortgages have come down from a record high of more than 10 percent of residential mortgages in 2010. Still, part of the reason for the decline is a delay in foreclosure filings, especially in backlogged state courts in Florida, New Jersey, Illinois and New York.

## **ARSENIC IN BABY FORMULA**

## **MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN - MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**PKG: 44**

The food items all listed a common ingredient: organic brown rice syrup. the arsenic detected is a type found in rice that is known to cause cancer. researchers say parents should limit babies' consumption of formula with organic brown rice syrup.

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**02/17/2012**

## **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**VO : 20**

Long-term unemployed workers in states with persisting high joblessness would no longer be able to count on unemployment benefit checks for up to 99 weeks under legislation before Congress. Under this week's compromise for extending a Social Security tax cut through the rest of 2012, federal unemployment benefits for people who have been out of work more than six months are being scaled back. If Congress passes the bill Friday and President Barack Obama signs it into law, the current maximum 99 weeks of benefits will gradually fall to 73 weeks by September. For people in all but about a dozen of the highest unemployment states, the benefits will be cut off after 63 weeks.

## **CELL PHONES AND CHILDREN**

**VO: 20**

Who is monitoring the apps that kids use on their phones? The government complained Thursday that software companies producing games, utilities

and other mobile applications aren't telling parents what personal information is being collected from kids and how companies are using it. Apps could quietly be collecting a child's location, phone number, call logs and lists of friends, said a report by the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC blamed the companies that make the apps, and the stores that sell them, for failing to explain where that data might be recorded, for how long and who would have access to it. "As gatekeepers of the app marketplace, the app stores should do more," the report said. "This recommendation applies not just to Apple and Google, but also to other companies that provide a marketplace for kids' mobile apps."

## **REMOTE-CONTROLLED MICROCHIP IMPLANT DELIVERS DRUG: STUDY**

**VO: 20**

An under-the-skin microchip device that releases drugs has been tested in humans for the first time. The study - published in the Feb. 16 issue of Science Transnational Medicine involved eight postmenopausal women with osteoporosis. The microchip-based device containing osteoporosis treatment was implanted in these women for four months and wirelessly programmed to release doses of the medicine once a day for 20 days. Did it work? Tests showed the daily releases from the device increased bone formation without any toxic or negative consequences. The women said the implant did not have an impact on their quality of life. "These data validate the microchip approach to multi-year drug delivery without the need for frequent injections, which can improve the management of many chronic diseases like osteoporosis where adherence to therapy is a significant problem," study author Robert Farra, president of the MicroChips - the company that developed the device - said in a written statement. Farra said the company looks to develop a range of products to treat diseases including osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, multiple sclerosis, cancer, and chronic pain.

## **ANTIBIOTICS NO HELP FOR SINUSITIS**

**VO :20**

Explain that patients with acute rhinosinusitis had no differences in symptoms or quality of life three days after starting on amoxicillin compared with patients who received a placebo. Point out that there were no between-group differences for any secondary outcomes, including days missed from work, inability to perform usual activities, rates of relapse and recurrence by 28 days, additional healthcare use, and satisfaction with treatment. Antibiotics won't chase away patients' sniffles any faster than watchful waiting, researchers found. In a randomized trial, patients with acute rhinosinusitis had no differences in symptoms or quality of life three days after starting on amoxicillin compared with patients who received a placebo instead, Jay Piccirillo, MD, of Washington University in St. Louis.

**MIGRAINE & BOTOX**

**MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN - MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**PKG: 1:01**

Botox is licensed to prevent headaches in adults with chronic migraine, but the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) said on Thursday the company had not provided sufficient evidence to prove its value. Without additional information NICE said it was inclined not to recommend Botox as a migraine treatment option in the state-run health service. The agency's draft guidance is open for comments until March 8. Allergan said in a statement it was "working constructively" to address key questions raised by NICE and would be submitting a revised economic model. "Allergan believes that the revised model presents robust evidence demonstrating that treatment with BOTOX is both a cost-effective and clinically meaningful treatment option," it said.

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**02/20/2012**

**NOTHING TO REPORT**

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**02/21/2012**

**FAKE IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY**

**OSVALDO CORRAL/ Houston, TEXAS**

**PKG: 1:20**

A Hispanic woman accused of pretending to be an immigration attorney went before a judge this morning. The Harris County District Attorney's Office fears there could be more victims.

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**02/22/2012**

**MORTGAGE LENDERS-LEGAL FEES**

**VO: 22**

A watchdog says the U.S. government regulator for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac must do a better job limiting legal expenses paid by the two mortgage giants to their former executives facing lawsuits. A report issued by the inspector general for the Federal Housing Finance Agency says

Fannie and Freddie together have paid more than \$109 million in legal expenses for former executives since 2004. Taxpayers are footing the bill: The bailouts of the two companies have so far cost about \$150 billion and that figure

continues to grow.

## **US ISSUE TRAVEL WARNING**

### **VO: 20**

U.S. citizens are reminded of the dangers of traveling to Colombia despite improvements in security measures there, the U.S. State Department said. The State Department, in a travel advisory, said narco-terrorist groups continue to pose a threat to national security in Colombia. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia was blamed for two minor attacks on Bogota last year. The advisory stated that security has improved "significantly" in recent years but narco-terrorist groups like FARC and the National Liberation Army are lingering threats. "Terrorist activity remains a threat throughout the country," the advisory read. It added that most narco-terrorist groups routinely use kidnapping as "a political bargaining chip." "No one is immune from kidnapping on the basis of occupation, nationality, or other factors," the warning read. "Kidnapping in rural areas is of particular concern." In early February, the State Department issued a similar travel warning for Mexico. The warning said more than 12,000 deaths were linked to the Mexican drug cartels last year.

## **IMMIGRATION LAW ALABAMA**

### **VO: 23**

But as Republican legislative leaders promise only minor adjustments to the law and with an 11th Circuit Court of Appeals hearing on portions of the law set for March 1, Hispanics are still living "with one foot out of the state, ready to flee for good," Sullivan said. Evelyn Servin, director of the North Alabama Hispanic Coalition for Equal Rights, said many of the Hispanic people who work in poultry plants around Russellville have completely

changed their way of life to avoid running into police. "People are still afraid to go out," Servin said. "Many of them go grocery shopping at night when they can't be seen in their cars. A lot of them are just staying home and not going anywhere." Alabama followed Arizona's lead by passing a law last year aimed at making everyday life difficult for the state's estimated 120,000 illegal immigrants. The Alabama law, known as H.B. 56, allowed local police to check the immigration status of people stopped for other crimes, required public school officials to collect data on the number of illegal immigrants enrolling, and forbade illegal immigrants from entering into private contracts or conducting any business with the state.

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**02/23/2012**

## **TAX FRAUD DEPORTATION**

### **CRISTINA PEREYRA INTERVIEW**

#### **PKG 2:30**

Tax fraud is an aggravated felony for immigration purposes if it costs the government more than \$10,000, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled yesterday. In a 6-3 decision, the justices affirmed a ruling by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, upholding a deportation order against Akio Kawashima. Kawashima and his wife, Fusako Kawashima, have lived in this country since 1984 and owned Cho Cho San restaurants in Tarzana and Thousand Oaks, according to a news account of their plea. The couple entered into plea agreements in 1997. Akio Kawashima pled guilty to willfully making and subscribing a false return, and his wife to aiding and assisting in the preparation of a false return. After they were sentenced on the pleas, the Immigration and Naturalization Service served them with deportation notices. An immigration judge ruled that their crimes constituted aggravated felonies, making them removable from the country. The IJ relied on a section of the Immigration and Nationality Act that makes a crime involving

"fraud or deceit" or the crime of tax evasion an aggravated felony if it results in financial loss exceeding \$10,000. The Ninth Circuit ruled that the crimes for which the Kawashimas were convicted necessarily involved fraud and deceit. In Akio Kawashima's case, the court said, his plea agreement established that the government lost more than \$10,000 so the removal order was appropriate. News accounts of the case have put the government's losses at between \$245,000 and \$1 million.

## **BECK BACKS LICENSES**

### **CLAUDIA BOTERO - LOSANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**PKG: 2:01**

Wading into a divisive, politically charged debate, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck said Wednesday that California should issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. The chief becomes one of the most prominent local figures to support the idea that state lawmakers have battled over repeatedly in the last 15 years. And Beck's stance is certain to further inflame critics who are already angry at the chief for his efforts to liberalize rules on how his officers impound the cars of unlicensed drivers. "My personal belief is that they should be able to" have licenses, Beck said in response to a question during a meeting with Times' reporters and editorial writers. "The reality is that all the things that we've done - 'we' being the state of California - over the last 14, 16 years have not reduced the problem one iota, haven't reduced undocumented aliens driving without licenses. So we have to look at what we're doing. When something doesn't work over and over and over again, my view is that you should reexamine it to see if there is another way that makes more sense."

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**02/24/2012**

## **GAS PRICES - HIGHEST EVER FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR**

**VO: 22**

Natural gas prices are down, oil prices are up. But it's the rising price at the pump that's alarming most of us this morning. Most of us are paying close to four-dollars a gallon, the highest ever for this time of year. With experts predicting gas prices to pass five-dollars by Memorial Day, President Obama argues it's not his fault.

## **USPS TO CUT 35,000 JOBS**

**VO: 16**

The U.S. Postal Service announced on Thursday new plans to consolidate or close 223 mail processing plants, putting 35,000 jobs at stake starting in late May or June. The processing plant consolidations would save \$2.1 billion and are a part of the agency's broader effort to save \$20 billion in the next three years. The Postal Service is in debt due to declining first-class mail volumes and a congressional mandate to prefund retirement health care benefits. The agency was reaching out to impacted employees on Wednesday, officials said. Not all impacted workers will lose their jobs. Many will be offered jobs at other processing plants miles away or even in other states. Some will be urged to retire.

## **BANK OF AMERICA TO FREEZE PENSION PLANS**

**VO: 26**

Bank of America announced plans Thursday to freeze pension plans, effective in July, and increase its 401(k) contributions instead. Eligible employees will keep the pension benefits that they've earned to date but will not receive additional benefits, Bank of America spokesman Scott Silvestri said. The company will instead begin making an additional 2-3% annual contribution to employees' 401(k) accounts, on top of the existing program that matches employee contributions up to 5%. "Making these changes simplifies our offerings, gives employees control in managing their

retirement savings and ensures our retirement benefits remain competitive," Silvestri said in an email.

## **NUMBER OF DEPORTATION CASES DROPS NEARLY A THIRD**

**VO: 21**

The number of deportation cases filed by federal immigration officials dropped by nearly a third in the first three months of the fiscal year, according to a report by the Syracuse University Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. The drop recorded in the last three months of 2011 may reflect the Obama administration's plan to focus its deportation efforts by weighing a variety of discretionary factors, including whether the person is a veteran, came to the U.S. as a child or is a college student, according to the report. But experts said it's too soon to say if deportations overall will decline.

## **MORE THAN 1.4 MILLION FAMILIES LIVE ON \$2 A DAY PER PERSON**

**VO: 31**

That's up from 636,000 households in 1996, says a new study released by researchers at the University of Michigan and Harvard University. Government benefits blunt the impact of such extreme poverty, but not completely, says one of the researchers, Luke Shaefer, a professor of social work at Michigan. The number of American households with cash income of no more than \$2 a day per person doubled in 15 years: The study found that among households in extreme poverty, one in five received rent vouchers or lived in public housing. Sixty-six percent had at least one child with public health insurance. The study did not factor in how those benefits affect household income.

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**02/27/2012**

## **IMMIGRATION TAXES**

### **SERGIO FLORES-SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

#### **PKG:2:05**

The COPA, (California Opportunity and Prosperity Act) initiative would require undocumented people to pay income taxes, which would generate \$325 million annually for the state. It would create a five-year pilot program, which would make it possible for the state government to be collecting taxes from undocumented workers who meet select criteria. It is estimated to bring up to 1,000,000 undocumented workers out of the dark to have their work and earnings decriminalized and collected for the benefit of state and local services. The money collected annually would help to pay for education, public safety and infrastructure projects.

## **CHILD SUPPORT DEBTS**

#### **VO:30**

Old child support debts could cost thousands of poor men their only income next year because of a policy aimed at reducing the cost to the government of mailing paper checks to pay federal benefits. The Treasury Department will start paying benefits electronically next March. It will stop issuing the paper checks that many people rely on to safeguard a portion of their benefits from states trying to collect back child support. States can freeze the bank accounts of people who owe child support. A separate Treasury Department rule, in place since last May in a preliminary form, guarantees them the power to freeze Social Security, disability and veterans' benefits that have been deposited into those accounts. Once paper checks are eliminated, about 275,000 people could lose access to all of their income, advocates say. "It's kind of Orwellian, what's being set up here for a segment of the population," says Johnson Tyler, an attorney who represents poor and disabled people collecting federal benefits. "It's going

to be a nightmare in about a year unless something changes."In many cases, the bills are decades old and the children long grown.

## **HPV VACCINES RECOMMENDED FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS**

**VO:24**

The American Academy of Pediatrics is now recommending boys as well as girls receive the H-P-V vaccine. Previously the A-A-P only backed routine vaccinations for girls. The group recommends boys 11 and 12 be immunized against human papillomavirus to help prevent cancers and genital warts. The recommendation is published in the March issue of Pediatrics . H-P-V's are the most common sexually transmitted viruses in the U-S. It's found more frequently in sexually active adolescents and young adults.

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**02/28/2012**

## **CHEAP GAS LINES**

**VO: 24**

Take a look at the lines. These California drivers didn't mind burning a little gas waiting in order to save money at the pump. This Safeway grocery store in Pleasant Hill has gas for 4-05 for a gallon of regular. That's 35 cents cheaper than the gas station across the street. Shoppers with a club card got an additional discount. It got so crowded Monday, owners had to bring in people to direct traffic. The prices are cheap for California, but still higher than the national average, which is 3-72 a gallon.

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**02/29/2012**

**AUTO SAFETY-CHILDREN**

**VO: 22**

Federal transportation officials are again delaying final rules aimed at helping prevent drivers from unintentionally backing over children. The government's proposed rules would require that automakers give drivers a better view of what's behind them, effectively necessitating rearview video camera systems on most new cars and trucks. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in a letter to lawmakers Tuesday that his department needs more time for "research and data analysis" before it can issue final regulations. Lobbyists for automakers who met with White House officials in December urged the administration to permit manufacturers the option of meeting the proposed visibility standard through expanded mirrors on vehicles rather than cameras. The government estimated the video systems would add about \$58 to \$200 to the cost of each new vehicle.

**NEW POLICY FOR IMPOUNDING CARS OF UNLICENSED DRIVERS**

**ANTONIO VALVERDE - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**PKG: 1:46**

The L.A. Police Commission voted on Tuesday to amend the LAPD's impound policy for unlicensed drivers. The commission voted 4-to-1 in favor of the change, which will help unlicensed drivers avoid having their cars impounded. Under current laws, if officers stop an unlicensed driver, they tow the vehicle and impound it for 30 days. But with the new policy, drivers can get their cars back the next day with valid identification, registration and proof of insurance, even if they don't have a driver's license. Drivers who have a suspended or revoked license, or who cause

an accident, would not be eligible for a shorter impound. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Police Chief Charlie Beck favored changing the policy, offering leniency to unlicensed drivers. "The difference is that we incentivize drivers to comply with the things they can comply with... have insurance, have identification," Beck explained.

## **HONDA HYBRID SUIT**

### **VO: 31**

Attorneys general in California and four other states must decide whether to oppose a class-action settlement between Honda Motor Co. and owners of its hybrid cars over inflated claims of fuel efficiency. A judge in San Diego has set a Wednesday deadline for California, Iowa, Massachusetts, Texas and Washington to make their objections known. The five states asked the judge for more time to consider after a Los Angeles woman won nearly \$10,000 this month in small claims court. That's much more than the couple hundred dollars cash that the settlement is offering. San Diego Superior Court Judge Timothy Taylor has scheduled a hearing March 16 to decide whether to accept the settlement.

## **AIRPORT BODY SCANNERS DEEMED**

### **VO: 25**

A new government report says the radiation levels from those full-body scanners in airports aren't dangerous for passengers. The report is from the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General. It looks at independent radiation studies on the new backscatter X-ray machines. According to the report, those studies found the radiation levels from the scanners are so low, a passenger would have to be screened 47 times a day, 365 days a year to reach annual radiation dose limits. The T-S-A begin installing the full-body scanners two years ago, but has faced calls to do more in-depth studies on their health risks.

## **NEW SAFETY LABELS FOR CHOLESTEROL DRUGS**

**VO: 31**

The F-D-A announced the entire class of statin drugs will get new labels that alert the public to safety concerns. Statins, used to lower high cholesterol, will now come with a warning that they can cause memory loss and confusion. The new labels will also warn doctors and patients that statins can cause an increase in blood sugar levels and increase the risk of Type 2 diabetes. Some of the products that will have these label changes include Lipitor, Crestor and Zocor. Nearly 32 million Americans are on statins.

## **HOME TOXICS**

**CECILIA RAMÍREZ-HARRIS - MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**PKG: 2:09**

If this year's unusual winter weather is any sign of what lies ahead, there's a good chance we'll be starting our spring cleaning earlier. But before you crack the windows, crank the tunes, and corral the cleaning supplies, resolve to make some small, but significant changes, in 2012 for a cleaner and greener household. Most of us would never describe our homes as "hazardous," but many of the products we use every day are actually toxic. Are you curious about the contents of your cabinets? Let's see ... kitchen - antibacterial wipes and oven cleaner; bathroom - tile, toilet and drain cleaners; basement - lighter fluid and batteries; utility room - bug spray, bleach and flea medicine; garage - paint, propane, fertilizer ... YIKES. OK, OK, I get it. By reading the labels, I learned that each of these products is potentially hazardous. A quick walk-through of your home can prove to be enlightening, yet frightening. Believe it or not, the average U.S. household accumulates as much as 100 pounds of hazardous waste over time. So without even realizing it, our ordinary home can be extraordinarily toxic.

**=====END OF REPORT=====**

