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The Afternoon Docket

Reuters

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What's going on today?

- Visa [hit with merchant class action](#) after DOJ antitrust lawsuit.
- Cutting 'race and ethnicity' from ABA's law school diversity rules [goes too far](#), critics say.
- Meta faces [new author copyright lawsuit](#) over AI training.
- Plus, your weekly Career Tracker.

[Gun, transgender rights, porn cases loom as U.S. Supreme Court returns](#)

The [U.S. Supreme Court](#) launches its new nine-month term on Monday with several major cases already on its schedule involving guns, transgender rights, online pornography and more - and with the possibility of confronting legal disputes that may arise from the Nov. 5 presidential election. [Andrew Chung has more on what to expect this term.](#)

The first big case before the court comes on Tuesday, when it hears arguments involving largely untraceable, home-assembled firearms called "[ghost guns.](#)"

More top news:

[Visa hit with merchant class action after DOJ antitrust lawsuit](#)

[Cutting 'race and ethnicity' from ABA's law school diversity rules goes too far, critics say](#)

[U.S. federal court upholds ruling letting KalshiEX list election betting contracts](#)

[Meta hit with new author copyright lawsuit over AI training](#)

[Amazon hit with U.S. labor board complaint over 'joint employment' of drivers](#)

[Doctor expected to plead guilty in death of 'Friends' star Matthew Perry](#)

[EU requests info from YouTube, Snapchat, TikTok on content algorithms](#)

Career Tracker ...

Here's the latest moves news:

In Washington, D.C. ...

Covington [brought on](#) former DOJ official Sarah Harrington as co-chair of the firm's appellate and U.S. Supreme Court practice ... Senior DOJ antitrust official Megan Lewis [joined](#) McGuireWoods as a partner ... Former DHS general counsel Jonathan Meyer [rejoined](#) Sheppard Mullin as a leader of its national security team ... Greenberg Traurig [added](#) Justin Hedge as an antitrust shareholder from Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer ... Gordon Moodie [joined](#) Debevoise's M&A practice as a partner from Wachtell ... Boies

Schiller [added](#) Andrew Smith as a partner who will counsel clients on regulatory, commercial and transactional matters. He joins from Holland & Knight.

In New York ...

Peter Skinner [returned](#) to Boies Schiller from Morrison & Foerster. He will co-lead the investigations and white collar team ... Norton Rose Fulbright [added](#) Michael Aluko as a partner in the firm's investment funds practice from Goodwin Procter ... Former federal prosecutor Derek Cohen [joined](#) the litigation department at Baker Botts from Walden Macht Haran & Williams ... Paul Weiss [added](#) Joseph Glatt to its corporate department from Apollo ... Mayer Brown [added](#) infrastructure M&A partner Vinita Sithapathy from Freshfields ... **Brian Willett [joined](#) Saul Ewing as counsel in the firm's higher education practice from Reed Smith.**

In Los Angeles ...

Massumi + Consoli [brought on](#) Joyce Cowan as a healthcare private equity partner from Morgan Lewis.

In San Francisco ...

Foley & Lardner [brought on](#) litigation partners Rajiv Dharnidharka and Jeanette Barzelay from DLA Piper.

In San Diego ...

Snell & Wilmer [hired](#) special litigation and compliance partner Adriana Ochoa from Procopio.

In Denver ...

Polsinelli [hired](#) debt finance partner Harsha Sekar from Michael Best ... Jackson Lewis [brought on](#) employment partner Paul Parisi from DISH Network, where he was director of litigation.

In Nashville ...

Womble Bond Dickinson [added](#) business litigation partner Derek Edwards from Holland & Knight.

In Atlanta ...

Buchalter [added](#) Alison Ballard as a litigation partner from Taylor English Duma.

In Dallas ...

Real estate and finance partner Jason Myers [rejoined](#) Barnes & Thornburg from King & Spalding.

In Raleigh ...

Baker Donelson [added](#) Peter Boseman as a financial services transactions shareholder from Smith Anderson.

In London ...

O'Melveny [brought on](#) private equity duo David Carter and Braeden Donnelly from Ashurst ... Alston & Bird [added](#) privacy, cyber and data strategy partner Kelly Hagedorn from Orrick.

In Paris ...

Alex Bafi left Clifford Chance to [join](#) Hughes Hubbard's securities and capital markets group as a partner.

And finally ...

Troutman Pepper [promoted](#) 18 attorneys to partner ... Kirkland & Ellis [named](#) 200 new partners ... Jenner & Block [picked](#) Ishan Bhabha as the firm's next co-managing partner.

[False Claims Act's whistleblower provisions are unconstitutional, U.S. judge rules](#)

Over the last 20 years, the U.S. has routinely recovered upward of a billion dollars a year from False Claims Act lawsuits initiated by private whistleblowers who accuse defendants of defrauding the federal government. In 2023 alone, the U.S. took in more than \$2.3 billion from hundreds of lawsuits initiated by private whistleblowers. Is all that money now at risk thanks to a ruling by Tampa federal judge Kathryn Mizelle? [Alison Frankel analyzes Mizelle's decision.](#)

[In other news ...](#)

Walz and Vance [clash, politely](#), at policy-heavy vice presidential debate. Here are [key takeaways](#) from last night ... Helene storm survivors [piece lives back together](#) as Biden and Harris [due to visit](#) ... Trump seeks to [boost presidential](#) bid in Hurricane Helene's wake, analysts say ... Biden does not support attack on Iran's nuclear sites. [Follow live coverage](#) of the ongoing situation in the Middle East here ... Japan airport shut after [likely WWII-era bomb](#) explodes near runway ... Webb telescope [reveals surprising details](#) of Pluto's moon Charon ... And our [top photos of the day](#).