

For the International Municipal Lawyer's Association - IMLA's 5 things to know for March 22nd

1. Among the issues that divide residents of the United States, the issue of illegal immigration and the idea of sanctuary for them seems high on the list these days. A city in California gave evidence to that divide when it voted to exempt itself from the state's sanctuary law and to side with the federal government with an amicus brief in the dispute between the state and the federal government.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/03/20/595289947/small-city-moves-to-opt-out-of-california-sanctuary-law>

2. In NYC corporation counsel Zach Carter is moving to increase the focus of its affirmative litigation unit to be more proactive and aggressively seek avenues to promote social justice.

<https://www.law.com/newyorklawjournal/2018/03/20/new-initiative-looks-to-have-nyc-bring-more-impact-litigation/?slreturn=20180222102556>

3. In Cincinnati the charter question of who can hire outside counsel arose in a dispute involving a battle between the Council and City Manager. As in most large cities, the city charter commits all legal work to the city attorney and such was the opinion of City Solicitor Paula Boggs Muething who reminded the council that it could not independently hire an attorney.

<https://www.wcpo.com/news/government/nope-city-council-cant-hire-outside-lawyer-to-investigate-black>

4. The 7th Circuit yesterday dealt with an Establishment Clause issue arising from a school's "Christmas Spectacular." The court affirmed a lower court determination that the school had modified its program sufficiently to allow it to continue a program that had celebrated the talents of students for decades while also entertaining those celebrating the holiday season. The case provides a very thoughtful and useful analysis of Establishment Clause jurisprudence.

<http://media.ca7.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/rssExec.pl?Submit=Display&Path=Y2018/D03-21/C:17-1591:J:Easterbrook:con:T:fnOp:N:2126856:S:0>

5. In Somerville, MA the city is looking at dealing with a significant problem with rats. One solution considered involves a bait that sterilizes the rat. Another involves adopting a feral cat measure to catch, neuter and return to the streets feral cats with the hope that they will keep the rat population in check. Recognizing that every solution may create a problem, one resident worries over the effect cats might have on migratory birds. So to all my Brother Rats out there, today we celebrate our release 51 years ago from the rat line. Rah Virginia Mil! Class of '70!

<http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/82587>

Join over 300 of your colleagues at the IMLA Seminar and Section 1983 defense program. Two people almost died in this year's Iditarod stranded on the ice and holed up against 50 mile per hour winds in temperatures cold enough to kill. Hear Gunnar Johnson talk about leadership lessons he learned from last year's Iditarod during our CLOF program on Sunday. Get more from IMLA by joining. Not a member? Contact us. Sign up at www.imla.org. Have a great day and make it an inspirational one.