

For the International Municipal Lawyer's Association - IMLA's 5 things to know for February 9th

1. Today, in 1909 the federal government began regulating narcotics listing opium as a controlled substance.
2. In Columbus Ohio City Attorney Zach Klein has cracked down on hotels that have become nuisances. One hotel rents just 23 rooms but had 54 calls for service in the past year.

<https://www.10tv.com/article/columbus-cracks-down-businesses-high-crime-rates>.

3. In Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes with Mayor Jennie Durkan is seeking to vacate old misdemeanor convictions for people convicted of marijuana possession and to drop all pending charges for those crimes. Some 250,000 people were charged or convicted of the crime before marijuana was legalized in Seattle.

<http://kuow.org/post/seattle-wants-drop-old-pot-charges-and-convictions>

4. In an issue that arises around the country, a judge in New York dealt a blow to the city council members who sought to file an amicus brief in a suit involving tax equity. The court decided that the council members could not hire counsel and file a brief as the council is represented by the city's corporation counsel. So the issue will likely be appealed. Does a council have standing separate from the city? It's an interesting issue.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/08/nyregion/nyc-council-mayor-de-blasio-lawsuit.html>

5. In a case out of the 8th Circuit, the court found a building official was entitled to qualified immunity in a suit involving a claim of an illegal search. The building official had been called to the scene of a search conducted by the police. He asked the handcuffed occupant of the home to sign a consent to search and then searched the home when he did. The court assumed that the owner had been threatened to sign the consent but concluded the official would not have known his actions violated the Constitution and granted qualified immunity.

<http://media.ca8.uscourts.gov/opndir/18/02/171058P>.

I'm on the road and want to thank my hosts at the Minnesota City Attorneys Association for inviting me to a great event with a terrific group of local government attorneys. Don't forget our Seminar in DC provides a great opportunity to learn and gain CLE credits while you do. Look for our Valentine's Day sale. The seminar and hotel are filling up quickly and could sell out, so don't wait to register. Make sure you consider registering for our Supreme Court practice track. Get more from IMLA by joining. Not a member? Contact us. Sign up at www.imla.org . Have a great day, a great weekend and make it an inspirational one.