



### **Newsletters**

# The Lawyers' Lawyer Newsletter - Halloween Issue - October 2018

October 30, 2018

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- Conflict of Interest Termination of the Attorney-Client Relationship Avoiding the "Hot Potato" Rule – Former Client Conflicts
- Partners and Officers Personal Liability Tax Liability
- Attorney-Client Relationship Termination of Representation Implications of Assisting Successor Counsel
- Lateral Hires Screening Moonlighting Due Diligence by Hiring Firm Vicarious Liability because of Lawyer's Apparent Authority

## Conflict of Interest – Termination of the Attorney-Client Relationship – Avoiding the "Hot Potato" Rule – Former Client Conflicts

Regal Cinemas v. Shops at Summerlin, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 149497 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 13, 2017)

**Risk Management Issue:** How can firms, through the proper structuring of engagement agreements and termination letters, protect their ability to take on new clients in matters related to the representation of former clients?

#### Partners and Officers - Personal Liability - Tax Liability

Alex Spizz v. USA v. Todtman, Case No. 15-CV-2361 (S.D.N.Y. December 4, 2017)

**Risk Management Issue:** When do officers and shareholders or partners of law firms bear personal liability for the firm's failure to pay trust fund taxes to the Internal Revenue Service?

# Attorney-Client Relationship – Termination of Representation – Implications of Assisting Successor Counsel

Cesso v. Todd, 82 N.E.3d 1074 (Mass. App. 2017)

**Risk Management Issue:** What are the risks of continuing liability if a lawyer withdraws from representation of a client, but continues to work with successor counsel and the client on the matter?

#### **Attorneys**

Robert M. Buchholz Filomena E. Meyer

#### **Service Areas**

Counselors for the Profession Lawyers for the Profession® Litigators for the Profession®



Lateral Hires – Screening – Moonlighting – Due Diligence by Hiring Firm – Vicarious Liability because of Lawyer's Apparent Authority

McFarland v. Niekamp, Weisensell, Mutersbaugh & Mastrantonio, LLP, 2017-Ohio-8394, 2017 Ohio App. LEXIS 4774 (November 1, 2017)

**Risk Management Issue:** When a law firm hires a lateral attorney, what due diligence must it undertake in connection with the business introduced by the lateral attorney?

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