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Hospitals Must Offer Gender Care, Bonta Says: California Brief

By Adam Schank

(Bloomberg Law) --

California Presses Hospitals on Gender Care After Trump's Orders

California hospitals are expected to provide gender-affirming care, despite actions from Washington trying to halt the services, **Ian Lopez** reports.

Attorney General Warning: "We will not let the President turn back the clock or deter us from upholding California values," Attorney General Rob Bonta (D) said in a statement Wednesday. California's anti-discrimination laws prevent hospitals from refusing care to a class of individuals based on their protected status, he said. Bonta's notice comes after President Donald Trump's executive orders halting US agencies from funding gender-affirming care and an Office of Management and Budget directive more broadly freezing federal funding.

Bonta also raised concerns to Children's Hospital Los Angeles after reports that the hospital was pausing gender-affirming surgeries for minors and the initiation of hormonal therapies for people under 19.

"Let me be clear: California law has not changed, and hospitals and clinics have a legal obligation to provide equal access to healthcare services," Bonta said. **Read More**

Judge Will Determine Ohtani Translator's Fate Thursday

A judge will determine the fate of Los Angeles Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani's former translator, Ippei Mizuhara, on Thursday and decide his punishment for stealing almost $17 million from the baseball phenomenon to make thousands of illegal sports bets, **Maia Spoto** reports.

Seeking reprieve: Mizuhara's expected to argue in Santa Ana, Calif., federal court that he's taken full responsibility for the fraud and tried to minimize the blow to Ohtani's reputation, including by quickly pleading guilty to the charges and agreeing to be sentenced before the Dodgers' spring training starts. The length of Mizuhara's sentence will likely also hinge on how close of a link the judge finds between the theft and Mizuhara's gambling addiction.

Mizuhara wants a much lower sentence of 18 months. The 40-year-old argues he's lived with a gambling addiction since he was 18 but he spiraled when Ohtani became a megastar. Not only was Mizuhara on-call 24-7, working for the Dodgers gave him access to baseball players' hotel poker games and bookkeepers who assumed Ohtani would cover his debts, his lawyers say.

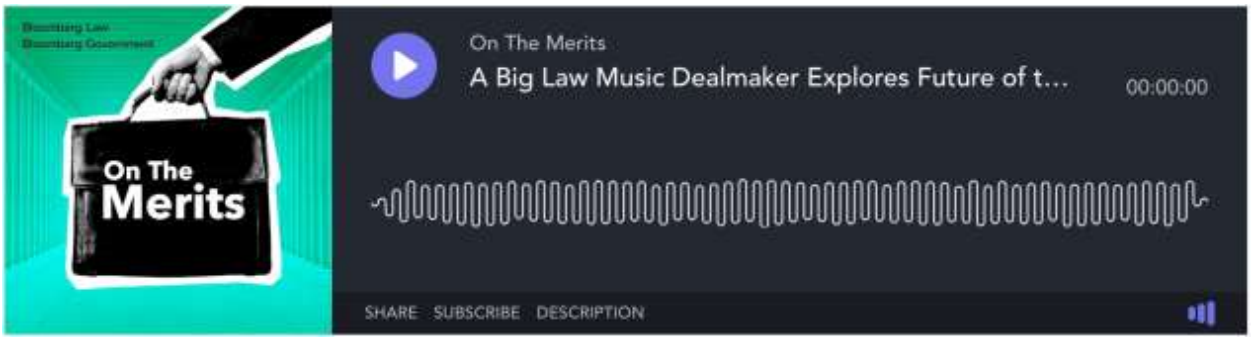
Pushing for more: Prosecutors are advocating for a 57-month prison sentence, higher than the 48-month sentence the US Probation Office recommended. They argue Mizuhara stole because he was greedy, not because of a gambling addiction. For example, Mizuhara used some of the stolen money to pay for things like valuable baseball cards, a purchase they say isn't at all related to gambling.

Mizuhara isn't a US citizen, his sentencing memo says, so "it is virtually certain he will be deported to Japan following his incarceration, where he and his family will continue to face great scrutiny and shame given the unique notoriety of this case in Japan."

A Big Law Music Dealmaker Explores Future of the Business

The music industry is facing rapid change, including the growth of artificial intelligence, which adds to its challenges making money and directing it to where it should go.

During Grammys week, Bloomberg Law's **Roy Strom** discussed music deals and big players on a new episode of our **On the Merits podcast** with guest **Sid Fohrman**, chair of the music industry practice at Paul Hastings. **Listen Here**



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In the Courts

Transgender 75-Year-Old Ex-Mergermarket Worker Gets Bias Trial

Mergermarket (US) Ltd. must face a jury on claims it violated a 75-year-old transgender content editor's anti-discrimination, anti-retaliation, and medical-leave rights, a California federal judge ruled.

Interior Faces Challenge to California Oil, Gas Drilling Permits

Environmental and health organizations are challenging the Interior Department's continued approval of drilling permits for new oil and gas wells on public land in California's San Joaquin Valley, which already faces pollution from other sources.

Amazon, Alphabet Targeted in Oklahoma Anti-DEI Proposals

Oklahoma is poised to become the first Republican state to try to use its influence as an investor to end DEI in corporate America, targeting companies including Amazon.com Inc. and Alphabet Inc. in shareholder proxy proposals.

Tesla, Musk Push to Toss 'Blade Runner' AI Image Copyright Suit

Tesla Inc. and its Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk urged a California federal judge to dismiss Alcon Entertainment LLC's lawsuit accusing the electric carmaker of using an AI-altered image from the movie "Blade Runner 2049" to promote its forthcoming Cybercab.

Roblox Sues Gamer Marketplace Over Sales of In-Game Money, Goods

Roblox Corp. said online gamer marketplace PlayerAuctions Inc. infringes its trademarks by facilitating sales of in-game assets in a California federal lawsuit.

VC-Backed Startup Accused of Gouging LA Fire Victims on Rent

A venture capital-backed startup illegally jacked up rents for furnished apartments in Los Angeles — more than 50% in one example — after last month's wildfires that destroyed thousands of homes, the city attorney's office alleged in a lawsuit.

Wonderspread Stole Wonderful Pistachio Trademark, Lawsuit Says

Own Your Hunger Inc.'s "Wonderspread" nut-butter products are a "blatant attempt to trade off the reputation and goodwill" of Wonderful Co.'s trademarks, the snack nut company alleged in a lawsuit.

HP Employees' 401(k) Plan Forfeiture Challenge Dismissed Again

HP Inc. again defeated proposed class claims accusing the technology company of mismanaging the 401(k) funds forfeited by departing employees.

Insights and Commentary

Nursing Homes Should Start Now on New Ownership Disclosures

Quarles & Brady's Jaya White says skilled nursing facility providers should start preparing now for CMS's new thorough disclosure requirements.

Musk's Treasury Incursion Puts Entire Financial System at Risk

Former Treasury Department officials Graham Steele and Emily DiVito say Elon Musk's role at Treasury poses an existential threat to the banking system, and that Silicon Valley's "move fast and break things" ethos is a reckless approach to the world's safest asset, treasuries.

IRS Clean Fuel Tax Credit Notice Leaves Mixed Use Rules Muddled

Kirkland & Ellis' Sam Kamyans and Bastian Shah examine guidance for Section 45Z credits, saying that it introduces ambiguity over "stacking" credits under several tax code sections.

Synthetic Data Can Reconcile Transatlantic AI Policy Divergences

GuarantR Inc.'s Ian Guthoff analyzes how synthetic data can bridge the divide between Europe's privacy protection in AI model training, and New York's efforts to avoid bias.

Editor's Picks

Google Ends Diversity Goals for Its Workforce in Trump Era

Alphabet Inc.'s Google told employees that it will no longer formally seek to improve the diversity of its workforce, marking the latest step in Silicon Valley's retreat from initiatives that have fallen out of favor during US President Donald Trump's administration.

Strategy of a Gun Rights Group: Attack Online, Prevail in Court

With relentless legal challenges and pugnacious, profanity-laden tweets, the Firearms Policy Coalition has built a broad online following and a string of court victories. Now the Nevada-based group has landed on its biggest stage, before the Supreme Court.

Allstate Expects $1.1 Billion of Losses From Los Angeles Fires

Allstate Corp. said it expects about $1.1 billion of losses from the wildfires that ravaged swaths of Los Angeles last month.

Trump Won't Stop California's Clean Power Push, Official Says

California's all-out push to decarbonize its economy will succeed despite President Donald Trump's efforts to block climate action, one of the state's top energy regulators said Wednesday.

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