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C O N T E N T S

ARTICLE

Renegotiating the Colorado River Compact: How a One Size Fits All Approach Has Led to a State Centric Future, and How the Commerce Clause Can Solve It

Erica Porvaznik120

While equitable division of water supplied by the Colorado River has been dictated by the Colorado River Compact for over one hundred years, this agreement has only served to create an unequal, power dynamic amongst all the states and parties to the Compact.

The current provisions controlling the apportionment and usage of the water are set to expire in 2026. Therefore, there is a path forward for the water to be divided in a new way, specifically, by Congress. I argue that Congress should assume authority over the Colorado River and apportion the water under their Commerce Clause power, as Congress has the sole ability to regulate commerce amongst states, foreign nations, and tribes. Though this provision was not used to originally allocate the water from the river, it is imperative that it is relied upon for any future apportionment in order to prevent any one state from monopolizing a share of the river's water.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Unjust Side of Civil Asset Forfeiture in Illinois: Innocent Victims and Corrupted Incentives

Sarah Farwick.....153

Under the broad scope of modern civil asset forfeiture, law enforcement agencies routinely deprive citizens of their property without ever formally charging them with a crime. This system diminishes the ideal values of American justice, yet the Supreme Court has long held that civil asset forfeiture is constitutional, leaving prospects of judicial reform unlikely. Therefore, it is crucial that individual states take action to protect their citizens by abolishing the use of civil asset forfeiture. In 2017, the Illinois General Assembly attempted to reform its civil asset forfeiture system, but upon close analysis and application of the statute, it is evident that many of the most troubling aspects of civil forfeiture remain intact.

Instilling Ordered Procedure in Assessing Motions for Reduced Sentences Under Section 404 of the First Step Act

Michael C. Vega.....181

This Comment discusses the lack of ordered procedure in assessing motions brought pursuant to § 404 of the First Step Act of 2018. For nearly a quarter century, federal cocaine sentencing subjected crack-cocaine offenses dealing in one-hundredth the quantity of drug to the same statutory penalty as powder-cocaine offenses. This disparate treatment of drug offenses impacted primarily African Americans. The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 reduced the disparity but applied only prospectively. Section 404 of the First Step Act made certain provisions of the Fair Sentencing Act retroactive. In the ensuing years, the federal courts have disagreed on the precise scope of a district court’s authority in assessing § 404 motions. This is to say that federal courts do not apply consistent procedure in assessing § 404 motions which presents an issue that the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 sought to eliminate—disparate differences in federal sentencing between similarly situated defendants. This Comment endorses an approach to assessing § 404 motions for reduced sentences which would require district courts to follow the familiar analytical framework of 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

Copyright Registration: *Fourth Estate* Implications for Photographers in the Modern World

Izabella Kanoza.....220

*In 2019, the Supreme Court has settled a long-standing split issue among the Circuit Courts. The issue revolved around the interpretation of the word “registration” with the Copyright Office in order for a copyright owner to be able to initiate a copyright infringement lawsuit. However, the now settled precedent has presented challenges to the ever-evolving internet world and those who use it to create, advertise, and share their digital content. Digital photographers, specifically, have found this registration requirement inefficient when it comes to sharing their work on social media platforms, such as Instagram or Facebook, where copyright infringement in the form of content theft is easy to do at the click of button on a computer or even a smartphone. Thus, this paper aims to note how the recent Supreme Court decision in *Fourth Estate Pub. Ben. Corp. v. Wall-Street.com, LLC* has affected digital photography and the available plausible solutions that may gap the bridge between the legal requirements and the internet world through such technology such as blockchain and crypto technology, that may even lead to less copyright infringement.*

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