



ABA Government Law News

State and Local

A 60 - Second Update on What's Happening

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California Tries to Find Balance Between Urban Farming & Zoning Regulations.

City zoning codes can make it tough for [small gardeners who want to sell their produce](#). "I had no idea it would be so complicated," said one Berkeley resident. "It's actually easier in Berkeley to have a pot collective than to have a vegetable collective."

Orlando's Restrictions on Feeding the Homeless Upheld

An en banc opinion from the 11th Circuit held that Orlando did not violate free speech rights by [restricting groups from feeding the homeless](#) in city parks. Assuming that feeding the homeless is expressive activity, the court nevertheless found that the City's permit requirement was a reasonable time, place, or manner restriction. [Opinion](#).

Florida Court Allows Claim Seeking Equal Treatment in Zoning to Proceed.

A Florida appellate court reversed a lower court decision and held last week that property owners alleging disparate treatment in the application of zoning laws can seek relief under an equal protection claim. [Opinion](#).

New Reports in on Effectiveness of Drug Courts

New reports from the Drug Policy Alliance and the Justice Policy Institute say that drug courts aren't reducing incarceration or providing improved treatment options. The newest episode of This American Life also reports on problems with a drug court in Georgia. [Links via blog. post](#).

Red Light Cameras Get Green Light in Washington State.

The [Ninth Circuit](#) gives a green light to automatic traffic safety cameras in

Washington State.

Arkansas Court Overturns Voter Decision to Limit Adoptions by Unmarried Couples

The [Arkansas Supreme Court](#) struck down a 2008 ballot initiative that prohibited unmarried couples (both gay and straight) from adopting or serving as foster parents.

More Unhappy Times Ahead for Happy Meals

[Happy Meal toy ban](#) prompts ban on bans in other states.

No More Pants on the Ground in Arkansas!

Kids in Arkansas are now legally required to pull up their [saggy pants](#), and Florida is considering similar legislation. The ACLU doesn't like it.

Get Your Ugly Solar Panel Off My Pristine Utility Pole!

A New Jersey utility company is installing solar panels on telephone poles in an attempt to double the state's solar energy capacity. [But suburban residents don't like them.](#)

For some mid-day distraction, check out this list of law-related songs.

From AC/DC to Willie Nelson, and many more in between, the Abnormal Use bloggers collect songs about the law. [Leave comments if your favorite law songs were left off the list.](#)

Its not to late.

Join us for CLE programs in **Portland, Oregon on May 12-15**, "Sex, Drugs and Government?" --- "Green Building" --- "Cyberbullying" --- "Ethics of Social Networking" ---- "Judicial Review of Local Land Use Decisions" --- and "Regionalism." Please, make you reservations NOW. For [More information click here.](#)

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