

GC Cheat Sheet: The Hottest Corporate News Of The Week

By **Sue Reisinger**

Law360 (July 18, 2025, 4:16 PM EDT) -- President Donald Trump has chosen the chief labor counsel at Boeing Co. for one of two vacancies on the National Labor Relations Board, whose confirmation would help restore a quorum. And Meta reached a midtrial agreement with stockholders in an \$8 billion suit.

These are some of the stories in corporate legal news you may have missed in the past week.

Trump Picks 2 for NLRB, Setting Up Return of Quorum

Trump announced his choices Thursday of an in-house counsel at Boeing and a longtime National Labor Relations Board official to fill two long-standing vacancies on the board, setting up confirmations that would restore a quorum on the NLRB.

Trump announced that he has tapped Boeing chief labor counsel Scott Mayer and longtime NLRB official James Murphy, who would fill two seats that have been open since before Trump returned to the White House in January. The board has been operating with two members since Trump fired member Gwynne Wilcox in January, a move that has been contested in court and that left the board without a quorum and unable to issue decisions.

Mayer would fill the seat most recently occupied by former NLRB Chairman Lauren McFerran, and his term would run until December 2029. Murphy would serve until December 2027, filling the seat left vacant since John Ring left the board in 2022.

Mayer has spent the bulk of his career as in-house counsel at major companies, including serving as chief labor counsel at Boeing since 2022. Before that, he was regional vice president of labor and employee relations at InterContinental Hotels Group, vice president and legal counsel for labor and employment at MGM Resorts International, and a labor and employment relations attorney and associate vice president and labor relations counsel at Aramark, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Meta, Stockholders Settle \$8B Privacy Breach Suit

Attorneys for Meta stockholders reported a midtrial agreement Thursday to settle an \$8 billion-plus Delaware Court of Chancery suit accusing the company's directors and officers of breaching privacy regulations and corporate fiduciary duties tied to allegations dating to the Cambridge Analytica scandal more than a decade ago.

Samuel L. Clocic of Prickett Jones & Elliott PA, co-lead counsel to the stockholder class, told Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick about the development, without further details, as the second day of a scheduled eight-day trial opened. The chancellor paused the case pending further word and details from the parties.

At issue were claims in an April 2018 complaint, amended twice and now totaling 412 pages, alleging "intentional, recidivist violations of the law" by Mark Zuckerberg — founder of the social media giant Facebook and its successor Meta Platforms Inc. — and others. Claims headed for trial relate in part to failures to assure compliance with a 2012 Federal Trade Commission consent order, as well as subsequent insider trading claims involving violations of consent orders.

Clocic said he was unable to discuss terms of the agreement or when details would become public.

Former Microsoft GC Remembered as Rule of Law Champion

Former American Bar Association President William H. "Bill" Neukom, the first head lawyer for Microsoft and a longtime partner at a predecessor firm to K&L Gates LLP, has died at age 83, the bar said Wednesday.

Known for his work promoting the rule of law worldwide, Neukom was a heavyweight in the West Coast's legal community and beyond. He co-founded the World Justice Project, which operates a Rule of Law Index that evaluates 142 countries and jurisdictions.

Neukom was the first chief lawyer at Microsoft for nearly a quarter-century, overseeing the company's initial public offering as well as its seven-year intellectual property litigation with Apple.

"Bill established at Microsoft — and among our lawyers — a deep cultural commitment to excellence, public service and high integrity," Microsoft Vice Chair and President Brad Smith said in a statement to Law360 on Thursday. "These values continue to define our work more than two decades after his retirement. We will miss him, especially as we reflect on how we benefited from his leadership."

What Fuels Pilot Travel Centers CLO's Passion for the Law

Truck stop chain Pilot Travel Centers announced Thursday that Eva Rigamonti has been promoted to chief legal officer, part of a journey that has taken her from teaching children with special needs in the South Bronx to leading a 90-person legal team at the country's largest convenience store-refueling group.

Along the way, Rigamonti has "danced semiprofessionally" as a ballerina. She first became fascinated by government affairs while doing a college research project on the role of ballet in Cuba.

She joined Pilot in 2024 as vice president of government and legal affairs. Prior to joining Pilot, which does business as Pilot Flying J, Rigamonti spent four years as associate general counsel and executive director of public policy for Atlanta-based RaceTrac Inc., another convenience store-refueling group.

She recently talked with Law360 Pulse about her unusual path to chief legal officer at age 40, the challenges of a changing regulatory environment and the importance of teaching in lawyering.

SEC Drops Bribery Suit Against Ex-Cognizant CLO, President

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission told a New Jersey federal court Tuesday that it will drop its lawsuit against the former president and the chief legal officer of Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. over an alleged bribery scheme, after the U.S. Department of Justice dropped a related criminal case.

In a joint stipulation, the SEC told the court that it agreed to dismiss its suit against former Cognizant President Gordon Coburn and former Chief Legal Officer Steven E. Schwartz, after a different New Jersey federal judge in April granted the Justice Department's request to dismiss its Foreign Corrupt Practices Act case against the former executives.

"The commission's decision to exercise its discretion and dismiss the pending enforcement action rests on its judgment that the dismissal is appropriate as a policy matter, not on any assessment of the merits of the claims alleged in the action," the SEC said in a statement Tuesday.

Counsel for Coburn and Schwartz did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

CLO-CFO Collaboration Key to Business Growth, ACC Says

In-house legal teams need to develop deep financial literacy while helping chief financial officers better understand the potential cost of compliance risks, according to a new report that examined the collaboration between legal and finance.

Published by the Association of Corporate Counsel, a professional organization for in-house attorneys that operates in 112 countries, and Odgers, an executive search and advisory firm, the report released Tuesday, titled "The Power Partnership: Optimizing CLO-CFO Collaboration for Business Success," came from interviews with CFOs and an online survey in April of 326 legal officers.

About 73% of the surveyed legal chiefs work in the U.S., followed by Australia, Canada and Europe.

The study concluded that organizations that foster alignment between their legal and financial leadership "are better equipped to manage risk, unlock strategic opportunity, and sustain long-term growth."

Why Husch Blackwell Helps Its Attorneys Go In-House

Way back when he was an associate supervising other associates, Husch Blackwell LLP Chair Josef Glynias began getting frustrated when attorneys would walk in and tell him they were leaving the firm.

Not only was Glynias sad to see them go, he'd often be disappointed to learn where they would be working next, thinking there were better positions the lawyers could have had, if only they'd confided in him ahead of time that they were looking to make a move.

"We have clients asking us all the time, 'Hey, is there anybody you know for this position?'" Glynias said. "As the years go by, more clients would call. And I'd feel bad if I wouldn't have somebody for a position who would be right for it, or I wouldn't know if any of our folks were necessarily interested."

Glynias said he felt as if he wasn't serving the firm's associates, or clients that had legitimate needs for

talent, as well as he could be. So he came up with the idea for HB In-House, a professional development program that prepares the firm's attorneys for future in-house legal roles.

The firm recently kicked off the second year of the program. Two dozen firm clients volunteer as faculty and advisers to provide insight into corporate legal roles, both to help those who want to make the move in-house and to educate firm attorneys on their clients' roles. The first year of HB In-House resulted in at least three Husch Blackwell attorneys moving to in-house roles, including at companies such as Energizer Holdings and Leidos, according to the firm.

J&J Demands Sanctions Over Atty's Bias Suit in NJ

Johnson & Johnson **has blasted** a former in-house data privacy attorney's discrimination suit against the company as "baseless and defamatory" and demanded sanctions against the ex-employee in New Jersey federal court.

The company said Ivelisse Clausell knew her claims, alleging she was passed over for a promotion that went to a less qualified candidate, were false, but filed suit anyway. The sanctions motion filed July 14 follows a motion to dismiss that the company filed in June.

"In view of the knowingly fabricated and untenable allegations, plaintiff's publication of the asserted claims in her complaint (and again in her amended complaint) constitutes improper and bad faith harassment," J&J said, adding that Clausell defamed the company and its executives "to coerce the undeserved and extortionary payout she demanded." J&J requested its total fees spent on the litigation from Clausell and her counsel.

"As detailed in our filings, the company asked the court to dismiss plaintiff's claims that not only are devoid of legal merit and premised on factual falsehoods, but wrongly impugn and defame the company's employees," a spokesperson for J&J said in an email to Law360 Pulse Tuesday.

UAE Prisoner Voluntarily Drops Suit Against Ex-Dechert GC

A Jordanian lawyer imprisoned in the United Arab Emirates has permanently dropped a Philadelphia civil suit seeking discovery against Dechert LLP's former general counsel in the U.S. over what the law firm's leadership knew of alleged human rights abuses committed by a former partner.

In a notice of voluntary dismissal with prejudice filed July 11, Karam Al Sadeq ended his ex parte application in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which sought to subpoena onetime Dechert top lawyer Arthur Newbold to testify in separate but related proceedings in the U.K. over torture Al Sadeq said he suffered.

Al Sadeq, who was once an executive at an investment fund for Ras Al Khaimah — one of the emirates that make up the UAE — sued Dechert in a British court in January 2020, alleging one of the firm's then-partners violated his human rights and forced him to sign a false confession of fraud after he and his family were threatened.

The dismissal came as Newbold was fighting U.S. District Judge John F. Murphy's February order granting Al Sadeq's petition.

4 Things Weighing on Law Firm Leaders' Minds at Midyear

Law firm leaders are facing numerous challenges at the start of the second half of 2025, from a tumultuous geopolitical environment, to an uncertain economy, to massive technological advances.

Each challenge presents risks but also opportunities for law firms, according to firm leaders who say they **plan to move** quickly to take advantage of the opportunities presented to them not only today, but also throughout the rest of the year.

"In a time when economic uncertainty and policy change is peaking, the challenges our clients confront become greater," said Phil Inghima, chair of Crowell & Moring LLP.

Law firms and their clients are operating in "an era of economic and geopolitical whiplash," where a global event, a Federal Reserve decision, or an election can radically shift client behavior and business confidence overnight, said Kristina Lawson, managing partner and chief executive of Hanson Bridgett LLP.

Firm leaders discussed making the most of an uncertain economy, as well as managing multiple generations in the workplace, grappling with major changes in generative artificial intelligence, and navigating growth in a busy talent marketplace.

BigLaw Firms Tap In-House Talent to Corner Finance Market

As elite law firms continue to battle to secure highly profitable legal work in the finance space, an increasing number are adding high-level in-house lawyers to their ranks, a departure from historic norms in which general counsel-to-law firm partner moves were less common.

Over the past year, a number of top law firms have hired attorneys from private equity firms and other finance-related organizations, many of whom were general counsel or deputy general counsel. The hires reflect an appetite on the part of law firms to grow their relationships with those financial institutions, and also the increasing pay differential between the organizations, which allows firms to appeal to those high-level hires, recruiters said.

"It used to be episodic. I would say in a given year, you'd see one or two executive in-house lawyers return to law firm practice. Now, it's become more common," said David Walden, co-CEO of legal recruiting firm E.P. Dine. Walden pointed to top law firms' increased focus on private equity and related industries as an important factor in that shift, as well as the substantial compensation packages being offered.

"It's not like they're not making a lot of money in-house," Walden said. "They're going from making a lot of money to an unbelievable amount of money."

DOJ Poised to Pounce on Data Security Violators

Companies and individuals not yet in compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice's sweeping, complex new national data security program should **expect to face** probes and potentially enforcement actions sooner than later, experts say.

The DOJ's National Security Division paused enforcement of the program from April 8 through July 8, giving a bit of breathing room to companies that were making good faith efforts to comply with the rule,

aimed at preventing the sharing of Americans' sensitive data with foreign adversaries that include China and Russia.

But that doesn't mean the government wasn't watching for violators and building the foundations for enforcement actions during the reprieve.

"So it could be the case that they have something ready to go in the near future," G. Scott Hulse, a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP and former high-ranking DOJ official, told Law360. "Enforcement actions before the end of this calendar year are entirely plausible."

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