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## Summary Judgments: Our daily legal-news aggregator for July 6

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By Joseph Schuman

**Navy detainee indicted:** Federal prosecutors on Tuesday unveiled a terrorism indictment against a Somali man who was interrogated for weeks on board a Navy ship, the New York Times reports. Abdulkadir Warsame was charged with supporting the Somalia-based Shabab and the Yemen-based Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, though the government didn't accuse him of taking part in a particular plot. His indictment could be controversial, coming in the wake of House passage of a bill that would ban the transfer of military detainees into the United States.

"Congress has spoken clearly multiple times -- including explicitly in pending legislation -- of the perils of bringing terrorists onto U.S. soil," said Republican Rep. Howard McKeon, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

**Legal malpractice claims on the rise:** The economic distress of clients is to blame for a surge in malpractice claims against U.S. law firms, according to a survey of brokerages that specialize in legal malpractice suits, American Lawyer reports. The survey was undertaken by broker Ames and Gough. In the first six months of the year, the number of malpractice suits registered by half the surveyed brokerages that cover large and midsize firms were up by between 6 percent and 10 percent. Another of the major brokerages surveyed saw claims rise by as much as 20 percent.

**Salaries drive N.Y. judges away:** At least a dozen New York state judges have quit recently because of a weak paycheck compared with the private sector, the New York Times reports. The highest-paid state judiciary in the 1970s, New York judges haven't had a raise in 12 years and are now ranked 46th when salaries are measured against the cost of living. The most recent to resign, a Manhattan appellate judge who was making \$144,000 a year, went to Dechert, a firm where average partner pay is \$1.4 million. Turnover in the state has been rising quickly, with nearly 10 percent of judges leaving every year.

**In praise of longevity:** Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg may be unhappy with Supreme Court rulings that often found her on the losing side in the last session. "I thought the court was not just wrong, but egregiously so," Ginsburg tells USA Today about one decision when the court's conservative wing prevailed. But she likes the addition of two more women to the high court in as many years. "It has felt distinctly different," Ginsburg says. "I like the idea that we're all over the bench. It says women are here to stay." The 78-year-old justice, who has survived two fights with cancer, has no plans to leave anytime soon. "I'm going to stay as long as I can do the job," she says, adding that she hopes to last as long as Justice Louis Brandeis, who retired 72 years ago at age 82. "I probably will at least equal him. But you have to take it year by year."

**GM sued over Impala tires:** Pennsylvania driver Donna Trusky bought her new Chevrolet Impala in 2008, the same year General Motors said it would replace rear suspension rods for police agencies who found the car's rear tires were wearing out prematurely, the Detroit News reports. Now Trusky, who has had to replace her rear tires twice with less than 25,000 miles on the car, is the named plaintiff in a class-action suit demanding that GM replace the parts and pay for tires for all affected Impala owners. GM sold 423,000 of the 2007-2008 Impalas but says the police version was different from those bought by most drivers. A company spokesman declined to comment on the lawsuit.

**Hardy north-of-the-border lawyers:** Canada weathered the 2007-2009 financial crisis better than the United States, and the same is true for Canadian law firms, Ottawa attorney and law-firm consultant Jordan Furlong tells Lawyers Weekly. "That's not to say big firms in Canada didn't suffer and feel some pain during the recession," says Furlong, a partner with consultancy Edge International who also runs the Law21.ca blog. "But at no point did it get to the stage where rumors were circulating that X firm was in danger of falling apart." Still, the big Canadian firms have had to adjust their prices, he says. Corporate and institutional clients want to pay lower prices for the same level of service they enjoyed before the crisis.

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