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Chronicling the high cost of our legal system

Wolk v. Olson: Overlawyered in the news

by [Walter Olson](#) on August 9, 2010

While I was away in recent days, a news story about this site drew wide coverage in the press. U.S. District Judge Mary McLaughlin last week dismissed a defamation lawsuit filed by Philadelphia aviation lawyer Arthur Alan Wolk against me, Overlawyered, and co-bloggers Ted Frank and David Nieporent over a blog post that Ted published on this site in 2007. Judge McLaughlin [ruled](#) (PDF) that the claim was time-barred, notwithstanding Wolk's argument that the operation of the statute of limitations should have been stayed based on his claim that he was unaware of the post until 2009, when he says he first performed a Google search on his own name.

The judge's dismissal of the suit was covered in [Law.com/The Legal Intelligencer](#), the [ABA Journal](#), [Legal Ethics Forum](#), and many other blogs and publications well known to our readers. All of us are grateful to attorneys Michael N. Onufrak and Siobhan K. Cole of White and Williams in Philadelphia, who [represented us](#). Had the judge not ruled in our favor on the threshold statute of limitations issue, we are confident that we would have prevailed based on the post's protected status under the First Amendment. Wolk has filed a notice of appeal in the [action](#).

For readers' protection as well as our own, we are obliged to discourage discussion in our comments section about these developments. We regret the curtailment of free controversy. **More:** [Ted at Point of Law](#).

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The deadline was Friday, Dec. 17, for submitting comments in response to the Securities and Exchange Commission's proposed rules to implement the whistleblower provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act, i.e., the financial regulatory reform legislation [Release No. 34-63237; File No. S7-33-10]... [...]

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Ted Frank

- [ATRA releases its latest 'Judicial Hellholes' report](#)

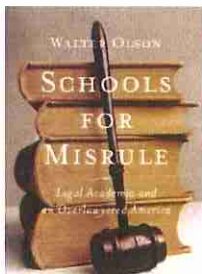
The American Tort Reform Association this week released its latest Judicial Hellholes report, identifying civil courts in Philadelphia, California's Los Angeles and Humboldt counties, West Virginia, South Florida, Cook County, Ill., and Clark County, Nev. as some of the worst... [...]

Carter Wood

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• Cato Institute



Individual liberty, free markets, and peace: the world's [premier libertarian think tank](#). Publishes [Cato at Liberty](#), where I blog on contemporary policy issues.

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