

Bathroom Reader

WHY'D THE SMART PHONE USER CROSS THE STREET?



Starting October 25th, Bill 6, which prohibits pedestrians from crossing “a street or highway while viewing a mobile electronic device,” will take effect. Honolulu is the first major city in the country that has passed such an ordinance. Mayor Kirk Caldwell has said the measure will remind “people to use common sense as they walk around this beautiful city, [and] so they don’t become another statistic.” The bill’s critics claim that it represents government overreach. Fines could run from \$15 to \$99, depending on the number of offenses.

UNDOCUMENTED LAW GRADS & THE BAR



One important personal question in the bar application is often overlooked: Status of U.S.

citizenship. For law student Thomas Kim, an undocumented immigrant seeking admission to the Oregon Bar, this question threatens his dream of becoming a lawyer.

The ABA House of Delegates has recently approved a resolution “that urges Congress to allow state courts to permit undocumented immigrants seeking legal status to obtain a law license”. The minority view takes that position that this is inconsistent with our duty as lawyers: “How can we ask lawyers tasked with upholding the law, to advocate for admission to our state bars those who are in open and notorious violation of it.” Despite such opposition, seven states, including California and New York, have already begun admitting undocumented immigrants. The ABA resolution will not only serve as guideline for other states, but also represents hope for students.

FREE SPEECH IN THE TRUMP ERA

The latest chapter in the Trump Administration’s legal saga involves freedom of speech. In early August, the DoJ

obtained a search warrant for one of DreamHost’s websites to access the IP addresses of 1.3 million users. The site, disruptj20.org, was used by people who planned to protest at the presidential inauguration last January. The website featured maps to organize various politically-themed blockades of intersections and tips for legal observers.

On August 24, a federal district court judge upheld a revised search warrant which DreamHost has announced it will appeal. DreamHost contends that the new search warrant, which excludes data from after Jan. 20 and unpublished drafts of the website, is overly broad and is the equivalent of asking for the membership of a political advocacy group. The web hosting company points out that the warrant infringes upon constitutionally protected speech and the right to protest. Those with a passion for direct action may wish to keep a weather eye on the legal horizon as this case makes its way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

