

# Overlawyered

Chronicling the high cost of our legal system

## *February 17 roundup*

by WALTER OLSON on FEBRUARY 17, 2012

- Mortgage robo-signing settlement not actually as punitive toward the banks as you might think, succeeds in sticking costs onto various parties not at table [[FT](#), [more](#) (US taxpayers could wind up covering much of write-down costs through HAMP program); [Felix Salmon](#) (write-downs of underwater mortgages should not be assessed at face value); [Mark Calabria](#), [Cato](#) and [more](#), [Bloomberg](#) (banks managing to offload much of the cramdown onto investors such as pension funds); Daniel Fisher/Forbes [one](#), [two](#), [three](#) (banks get covert benefits, politicians get social engineering and fees -- shades of the collusive tobacco settlement!); [Above the Law](#) (Schneiderman steers money to legal services programs); [Linette Lopez](#), [BI](#) (banks still exposed on many issues). More: [Hans Bader](#), [John Steele Gordon](#).
- "Burned at mediation by my own Facebook post" [[Stuart Mauney](#), [Abnormal Use](#)]
- As anti-discrimination law advances, religious liberty retreats [[Roger Pilon](#), [Cato](#)] Two views on the birth control mandate [[Cathy Young](#), [David Henderson](#)] **More:** [Adler](#).
- Caswell Motel case from Tewksbury, Mass. heads to court, could test forfeiture law [[Balko](#)]
- Which is more unreasonable, OSHA regulation or FAA's? Open to dispute [[John Cochrane](#), [Grumpy Economist](#)]
- Indiana becomes a right to work state. On to Michigan next? [[Shikha Dalmia](#), [Reason](#)]
- Warning! Tale of trial psychologists in wizard garb comes from a sinister source, namely [me](#) [["In the News," forensic psychologist Karen Franklin](#), handsome illustration swiped from Cato site]