

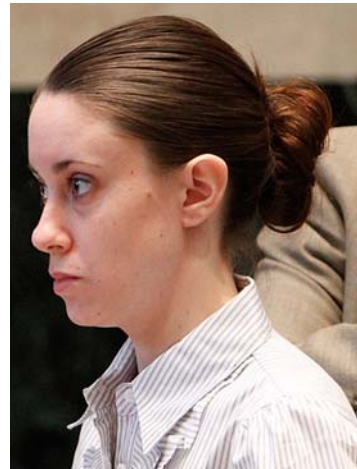
# The Legal Beagle

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## Anthony Trial Sparks Petition for Caylee's Law

The trial of Casey Anthony will go down in history as a defining moment in America's judicial system. After the jury's inability to find Casey Anthony guilty for the murder of her daughter due to lack of physical evidence, social media sites exploded with pleas of legal change and justice for deceased toddler, Caylee Anthony. The most widespread of the pleas was made by activist Michelle Crowder on the website Change.org. Her petition for a new "Caylee's Law" signed by close to a million people would make it a criminal offense for parents not to report their child missing within twenty-four hours or dead within one



hour of discovery. Although the American public seems to think this proposed law is a great idea, lawmakers are not so sure. Cases like Casey Anthony's are so rare that the law would have little real world effect and grief counselors say that sometimes parents of this missing or dead are too traumatized to be punctual. Some states are still starting to draft laws similar to the Caylee's Law petition, believing that it is better to be safe than sorry.

## Special points of interest:

- What is Caylee's Law?
- What is Bulger charged for?
- Why does Menino regret participating in Secure Communities?
- What changes are in store for NY same-sex couples?
- Why should parents and students worry about money?
- US Women Win Silver!
- Why is China angry at the US?

## Bulger and Greig Await Prosecution



James "Whitey" Bulger, FBI's most wanted and accused murderer of nineteen people in Boston, was finally captured at the end of June in an apartment in California. After escaping the police for sixteen years with cohort Catherine Greig, the eighty-year-old man will be tried in Boston pending further police investigation. Greig, although not accused of murder, will be tried for harboring a fugitive and possibly for fake identification and weapon concealment. Bulger

and Greig lived in California under the aliases of retirees Charlie and Carol Gasko. Officials found over 800,000 dollars in cash, thirty guns, and booklets of fake ids in their apartment. People from their neighbors to the owner of their California apartment have been asked to testify. If convicted, Bulger will spend the rest of his life in jail and Greig will spend at least thirty consecutive months.

## Menino Against Illegal Immigrant Deportation

Boston's mayor, Thomas Menino, is speaking out against an illegal immigrant deportation program started as a pilot in Boston back in 2006. He is saying that Secure Communities, a federal initiative aimed at identifying and deporting illegal immigrants who commit criminal offenses, has gone too far by deporting even those who commit minor misdemeanors. Secure Communities works by matching finger prints taken at arrests to a federal

immigration database. Menino argues that the program has caused the trust between the Boston police and immigrant communities to erode as immigrants are no longer reporting even minor crimes for the fear of deportation.

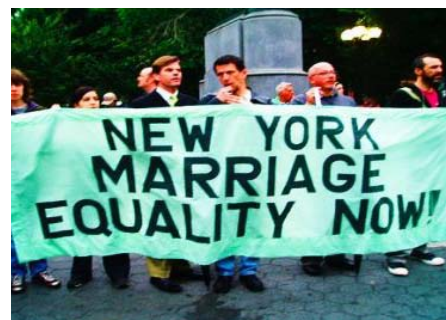


Massachusetts governor, Deval Patrick, was against the program from the start and was one of three state governors who refused to sanction it. Menino says he now understands the governor's concerns and wrote a letter to the Secure Communities task force in Washington D.C. to say that if the program did not become more exclusive about what types of crimes illegal immigrants could be deported for, he would stop endorsing it.

## NY Wants Same-Sex Couples to Wed for Benefits

The recent legalization of same-sex marriage in New York has brought about many changes for domestic partners in the Empire State. With marriage comes dual bank accounts, hospital rights, and an overall feeling of acceptance. Some businesses feel that it should also come with a revocation of the domestic partnership rights that same-sex couples previously had. Many companies in New York have insurance contracts where domestic partners can be covered on one insurance just like married couples. Now that they can legally be married, these companies want to get rid of this right

to say that only married same-sex partners can be covered on the same insurance. However, many partners have valid reasons as to why they cannot get married right away. Some want to wait to be married until after gay marriage is recognized by the federal government. Others may have immigration issues. This would also cause a problem for those who work in NY, but live in a neighboring state that does not allow gay marriage. These NY companies seem to be going forward with the insurance change, but allowing a grace period and certain requirements.



## Boston Groups Help Immigrant Victims Get Visas

Officials from the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services



launched a two-day training session in Boston for law enforcement and community groups to help immigrants who are victims of human trafficking and other violence. This national campaign aims to offer information on visas that would allow immigrant victims to apply for legal status to remain in the country. Each year, the federal government allows for 5,000 of such visas, however,

only about a tenth of those are issued each year. It seems that many of the immigrant victims are either scared of deported or scared that their abusers will hurt them for coming forward. Under federal law, illegal immigrants who are victims of human trafficking can apply for a T visa to remain in the country. Those who are victims of mental and physical abuse can apply for U visas.

## Back to School: Little Funding and High Tuition

August signals the end of summer, and to most children and parents, the start of a new school year. This is a time of new backpacks, new clothes, and new sports gear. However, many of these parents and students will get a rude awakening as they return to schools with less funding than ever before. No state and government funds mean fewer advanced classes, fewer school supplies, fewer art programs, and fewer sports. At the same time that lower education schools are struggling for money, colleges are increasing tuition to unseen highs.



Over the past decade, college tuition has risen about 5.9% a year, making even state colleges unaffordable. This means that colleges are as selective as ever as more students are fighting for scholarships to make ends meet. So at a time when high schools need to be helping their students stand above the rest, they do not have the funding to do so. Students are now having to look outside of the classroom to find the activities that will help them compete in the application process.

## US Women's Soccer Takes World Cup Silver



After a shocking loss to Japan, the United States Women's Soccer team takes the silver medal at this year's Women's World Cup. The Japanese team, which has never beaten the US previously, won the championship game when they scored on a penalty shot and broke the 2-2 tie. The loss may not be all bad news, however, because history has shown that every year the US has lost the Women's World Cup, they have come back to medal in the Olympics. US goalie, Hope Solo, also won the Golden Glove for being the tournament's best goal keeper. Despite

hoping for a home team win, many Americans are not all that upset with the loss, believing that Japan needed a win more than we did. After the earthquake tsunami disaster in March and the nuclear power plant explosion, Japanese moral has been at an all-time low. This one victory has brought Japan back in good spirits, at least for a little while.

## China Angry over Obama and the Dalai Lama's meeting

The Chinese government is claiming that Chinese-American relations are tense after President Obama's recent meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. It says that the meeting was a direct assault to China's stance against the Dalai Lama, whom it believes is trying to gain Tibetan independence from China. Obama invited the Dalai Lama to a meeting while he was on a Buddhist retreat in Washington D.C. to discuss matters of peace and politics without media presence. Although it is not

clear exactly what was discussed, Chinese spokesperson Ma Zhaoxu says that the meeting "has grossly interfered in China's internal affairs, hurt the feelings of the Chinese people, and damaged Sino-American relations." The Obama administration has restated that it does not endorse Tibetan independence and that the meeting with the Dalai Lama was in no way meant to spite the Chinese government.



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