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## Male circumcision: It's a personal choice

Marc E. Angelucci is a men's rights attorney in Los Angeles and is the vice president of the National Coalition For Men.



A few days ago, the American Medical Association made an announcement that contradicts the position of medical associations worldwide about something that has recently seen an explosion in media coverage - infant male circumcision.

Throughout the world, medical associations have found

no medical justification for male circumcision. The British, Canadian, South African, Australian, Dutch, and New Zealand medical associations all found the purported medical benefits to be unfounded, and that the risks and complications outweigh any benefits. The Dutch and South African medical associations even declared infant male circumcision to be harmful, unethical, and a violation of a child's right to bodily integrity.

But on Nov. 15, the American Medical Association announced its vote to oppose recent efforts to ban the practice, and in their announcement they said there is "strong evidence documenting the health benefits of male circumcision."

This announcement won't jolt the views of most Americans, for whom this is conventional wisdom. Although circumcision is declining in the U.S., over half of American men remain circumcised. The U.S. is also the only nation that tries to medically justify the practice.

Incidentally, Americans also consume more Viagra per person than any other country. And given recent medical research, that is not surprising.

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In 2008, scientists for the first time used fine-touch medical instruments to measure penile sensitivity of both cut and uncut men in the U.S. and in China, and they found circumcision removes the most sensitive part of the penis. The following year, a report by the British Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons declared the male foreskin is "rich in specialized sensory nerve endings and erogenous tissue" and declared it is not recommended.

Other studies recently found circumcised men have a higher association with sexual problems than uncircumcised men, and that the difference increases with age. Of course, men who were cut as babies cannot know the difference, just like a person born colorblind. But more and more men in the U.S. are educating themselves about what they lost at birth, and an increasing number of them are seeking restorative surgery.

The bottom line is that the American Medical Association is caving to political and

Thursday, November 17, 2011

### Litigation

#### Jury rejects Rambus price-fixing claims

In a devastating defeat, a San Francisco County Superior Court jury on Wednesday rejected Sunnyvale-based chip designer Rambus Inc.'s claims that two memory chip manufacturers fixed prices to freeze it out of the market.

#### Judge 'not happy' with Armenian Genocide case plaintiffs

A class-action settlement worth \$17.5 million to victims of the Armenian Genocide devolved into a courtroom mud fight this week as accusations of chicanery and theft fly between plaintiffs' counsel.

### Real Estate

#### Real Estate Deals

A 53,058-square-foot medical office building at 8641 Wilshire Blvd. in Beverly Hills was refinanced for \$12 million.

### Investments

#### InvenSense launches IPO

Sunnyvale-based InvenSense Inc. started trading on Wednesday with the help of Morrison Foerster LLP in a sign that the technology-sector initial public offering market is coming back to life after a bleak late summer.

### California Supreme Court

#### Liu on the lookout for clerks

State Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu's move to hire at least two clerks marks a potential shift at the court, which for the past 30 years has mostly relied on permanent staff attorneys.

### Intellectual Property

#### Alcatel-Lucent will appeal reduction in award

Alcatel-Lucent S.A. will appeal a San Diego federal judge's decision to slash a patent verdict against Microsoft Corp. from \$70 million to \$26.3 million.

### Government

#### Oakland rejects city attorney elections

Oakland voters overwhelmingly rejected a ballot measure that would have changed the city attorney position from an elected role to an appointed one.

### Labor/Employment

#### Judge issues rare labor injunction

cultural pressure to act contrary to medical ethics. Even the slightest ceremonial incision on an infant girl's genitals is illegal. All forms of infant female circumcision, including those less intrusive than male circumcision, are illegal in the U.S., even though the most common form - removal of the clitoral foreskin - is gynecologically equivalent to male circumcision and has similar (but false) purported health benefits.

Boys deserve the same protection. Religious, cultural, and parental rights end when it comes to someone else's bodily integrity. It's his body, and his choice.

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## BUSINESS MEDIATORS

						
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Two employees who say they were laid off from their landscaping jobs for supporting a labor union will return to work after a federal judge issued a temporary injunction under the National Labor Relations Act. <>

**California Supreme Court**

**Prop. 8 standing ruling due today**

The state Supreme Court will give guidance today on whether proponents of Proposition 8 have standing to challenge a ruling against the ballot measure.

**Government**

**San Bernardino tentatively settles disability suit**

San Bernardino County and its court system tentatively agreed to settle a five-year-old federal lawsuit alleging disability violations at a dozen court branches.

**Criminal**

**Company sentenced in auto lights conspiracy**

A federal judge on Tuesday sentenced Maxzone Vehicle Lighting Corp. to pay a \$43 million fine for participating in a price-fixing conspiracy.

**California Supreme Court**

**Justices to review discrimination suit**

The state Supreme Court agreed Wednesday to decide whether an employee could be barred from suing for discrimination because he used a fake Social Security card to get a job.

**Intellectual Property**

**Judge tosses artist's suit over Bratz**

A New York federal judge tossed out a lawsuit late Wednesday in which an artist accused Bratz manufacturer MGA Entertainment Inc. of basing its successful doll line on his work.

**Litigation**

**High court skepticism on asbestos liability has lawyers watching**

Asbestos lawyers on both sides don't expect a dramatic decrease in filings should the state Supreme Court limit the liability of manufacturers who sold asbestos-related products to the U.S. Navy.

**Environmental**

**Shipping company fined for oil dumping**

A Panamanian shipping company will pay \$650,000 for illegally dumping ship oil waste near the San Francisco Bay as part of plea agreement announced by the U.S. Attorney's office Wednesday.

**Labor/Employment**

**Public sector employers face new challenges**

New political causes and Occupy protests present

unique challenges to public sector employers. By **David Urban** of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

#### Health Care & Hospital Law

**Male circumcision: It's a personal choice**  
Throughout the world, medical associations have found no medical justification for male circumcision. By **Marc E. Angelucci** of Kerendian & Associates

#### International

**Against the Chinese wall: the US government's limited investigative reach**  
The SEC and Justice Department have no subpoena power abroad, making it tricky to access documents and witnesses. By **Winston Y. Chan** and **Susannah Stroud Wright** of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

#### Labor/Employment

**Communication is key: working with disabled employees**  
The UPS case illustrates the importance of employers to engage in individualized discussions with employees. By **Dulcinea Grantham** and **Kimberly L. Gee** of Lozano Smith PC

#### Judicial Profile

**Ioana Petrou**  
Superior Court Judge Alameda County (Alameda)

#### Corporate Counsel

**Michael A. Newman**  
Senior vice president, interim chief financial officer, general counsel and chief administrative officer for Websense Inc. San Diego

#### Criminal

**Judges spar over early releases**  
Fresno judges seek to block sheriff's early release of county prisoners