



Transportation Law Alert

SCOPELITIS, GARVIN, LIGHT, HANSON & FEARY
Remington v JB Hunt
GREAT VICTORY

***Federal Leasing Regulations Preempt Wage Deduction Claims in IC
Misclassification Litigation***

Contrary to what some commenters are reporting, the federal District of Massachusetts decision issued last week in *Remington v. J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc.*, CV 15-10010-RGS, 2016 WL 4975194 (D. Mass. Sept. 16, 2016), while indeed a positive and helpful decision, does not represent a consolidated victory against independent contractor misclassification claims.

The *Remington* Court found the Federal Leasing Regulations prohibit the application of state laws in a manner that prevents a motor carrier and independent contractor owner-operator from negotiating how business expenses associated with a lease may be allocated. As a result, the court dismissed the Massachusetts improper deduction class claims.

It remains to be seen whether a Court will ultimately find that the Federal Leasing Regulations preclude a state law misclassification claim.

If you have questions regarding these issues, please contact Jim Hanson (jhanson@scopelitis.com), Greg Feary (gfeary@scopelitis.com), Adam Smedstad (asmedstad@scopelitis.com), or Kelli Block (kblock@scopelitis.com).