Little change

BY STEPHANIE POTTER

salaries: Study in first-year

Little change

No shield for triage data in med-mall suit: Panel

BY MILT MERSER

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Department, said that they orchestrated a series of lectures on the topic over the next year, on college campuses and to conservative groups, including the American Enterprise Institute and the fledgling Federalist Society, which was founded by law students in 1982 as a debating club.

Leo, then a student at Cornell who was taking a summer off to work as an aide for the Senate Judiciary Committee, remembers attending the Federalist Society speech.

“It had an enormous influence on me,” he said. “It was a fairly young crowd, lawyers, a lot of Reagan Justice officials. It was quite an affair. Certainly a heady moment for me as a student.”

Meese scheduled breakfast and lunch lectures on originalism at the Justice Department, as well as off-site seminars, applying the principles to contemporary cases. Harrows Inc. 458 N.Y.S.2d 669 (1983).

Accountability Act of 1996. The appellate panel disagreed.

The guidelines require that court subpoenas and orders demanding the information be accompanied by a protective order that is designed to keep the information from being seen by outside parties.

Not only did Ingalls waive the right to raise this issue on appeal by failing to raise it with Casciato, but also the regulations are “inapplicable” in this case because the information requested by the Tomczaks is not protected under HIPAA, Hoffman wrote.

The Tomczaks were represented by William A. Cirignani of Cirignani, Heller, Harman & Lynch LLP. Ingalls was represented by Anderson, Bennett & Partners LLP.

Michael Tomczak and Eleanor Tomczak v. Ingalls Memorial Hospital, et al., No. 1-04-1746.

Triage data

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In both cases, the court ruled that a patient’s “time data” were not privileged. Hoffman said the Illinois panel agreed with its New York counterparts.

“As stated above, the privilege acts to bar the disclosure of information obtained by or for a physician which is necessary to enable the physician to serve the patient,” Hoffman wrote.

“Ingalls, however, has failed to present any facts showing how the mere times at which a patient is assessed by a triage nurse or initially treated by a physician are necessary to enable the physician to care for or treat the patient,” Hoffman wrote.

Similarly, triage acuity — a nurse’s or doctor’s instant judgment of how urgent a patient’s needs are — “does not refer to a specific symptom, ailment, or complaint” and therefore should not be considered privileged, Hoffman wrote.

Ingalls also argued that Casciato’s decision violated guidelines established in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The appellate panel disagreed.

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Salaries

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are cyclical.

“You would expect as the economy improves, as the rate of business activity picks up, demand for corporate legal services would increase,” he said.

Fred Thrasher, deputy director of NALP, said part of what drove salaries up in the late 1990s was competition between dot-coms and law firms for law-school graduates. Bob Nelson, a professor of law and sociology at Northwestern University and director of the American Bar Foundation, said that competition has abated.

With the end of the tech bubble, there was enough associate labor that it

for new law graduates has hovered at or near 89 percent for three years.

Among the salary survey’s other findings:

• Nationwide, the median salary for first-year associates ranged from $67,500 in firms of two to 25 attorneys to $125,000 in firms of more than 500 lawyers. For all firms, the median was $100,000.

• The median salary for first-year lawyers in large firms varied by region. It was highest in the Northeast, at $125,000, and lowest in the Midwest, at $95,000. The median salary for firms in the West was $112,500; it was $105,000.

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