



AAJ News Brief

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AAJ News Brief for Richard Arsenault

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Leading the News

Attorneys hold conference on Toyota litigation tactics.

The [AP](#) (3/25) reports that over 150 attorneys "gathered to sharpen their legal tools Wednesday on the eve of a major federal court hearing on whether dozens of cases" against Toyota "will be consolidated before a single judge. The seminar, entitled **'Toyota Recall Litigation Conference,'** was organized by legal publisher HarrisMartin and looked ahead to Thursday's scheduled hearing before a panel of federal judges in San Diego. The judges will choose whether to combine more than 100 Toyota lawsuits and where to send them." The AP notes that "Los Angeles attorney Mark Geragos, best known for representing celebrities including Michael Jackson and Winona Ryder, said the Toyota lawsuits could set a new standard for corporate litigation."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/25, Perry) also covers the "all-day event to discuss litigation strategy over claims of deaths and injuries in accidents as well as the loss of resale value of used Toyota vehicles. Those attending, including veterans of class-action litigation, didn't shy away from portraying the situation as an opportunity of historic proportions. ... How much money is involved? 'A hell of a lot,' said San Diego lawyer Kerry Steigerwalt, whose firm already has Toyota clients." Some attorneys in attendance are "hoping to attract" clients suing Toyota, which "declined to comment on the lawyer event." [Reuters](#) (3/25) also reports on the conference.

Michigan AG seeking Toyota recall documents. In a separate article, [Reuters](#) (3/25) reports that Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox has subpoenaed Toyota for information about its safety recalls. The piece quotes a statement he released, "Michigan drivers concerned about the safety deserve answers from Toyota."

From the American Association for Justice

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