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Cybersettle prevails in patent case

(Original Publication: November 14, 2006)

Cybersettle Inc., a White Plains-based company that provides an Internet platform for parties to settle legal disputes, said yesterday that it had won a patent case.

The company said a federal judge in New Jersey ruled that two versions of the National Arbitration Forum's online dispute-resolution system in New Jersey violated a Cybersettle patent. That patent covers an online dispute-resolution system that can handle multiple bids from the parties trying to settle.

Charles Brofman, the president of Cybersettle, said: "We basically staked out a claim that has now been supported by this federal District Court decision, and that's pretty powerful."

Curtis Brown, a vice president with National Arbitration Forum, said his company has stopped using the platform covered by the patents in its work for the state of New Jersey. Brown's company provides the technology that allows parties to settle health-care claims that arise out of auto accidents.

The platform covered by the patents allows each party to submit multiple bids until they reach a settlement, he said. The technology his company is using with New Jersey allows each party to submit only one bid.

Brown said National Arbitration may appeal the ruling by U.S. District Judge Mary Cooper.

D'Agostino stores start up Internet shopping

D'Agostino Supermarkets, which has stores in Rye Brook, Chappaqua and Lewisboro, is offering customers the ability to order their groceries over the Internet and have them delivered to their homes. Customers can place their orders at www.dagnyc.com. The items a customer orders will come directly from one of the stores. The company charges a \$10 delivery fee per order, but a customer who orders \$75 worth of groceries would get a \$2 discount off the delivery fee. Customers pay for their orders online.

White Plains-based Bunge offering shares

Bunge Ltd., the global agriculture and food company based in White Plains, plans to raise gross proceeds of \$500 million by selling shares to the public, the company said yesterday. Bunge described the shares as "cumulative, convertible, perpetual, preference shares." Stewart Lindsay, a company spokesman, said the shares pay dividends, carry no voting power and can be converted to common shares at a later date. The company will subtract commissions and costs from the proceeds. The company also plans to give the underwriters 30 days to buy up to \$75 million worth of the shares. Bunge said it will use the money it gets from the sale for working capital and general corporate purposes, which could include acquisitions or paying debts.

Musical lawyer releases fourth Christmas CD

Lawrence Savell, a product liability lawyer in New York City, has released his fourth compact disc of Christmas songs poking fun at his profession. This year's release is called Merry Lexmas from The Lawtunes and includes 15 songs sung by Savell, a Croton-on-Hudson resident who works for Chadbourne & Parke LLP. Savell said he tried to keep legal jargon out of the songs on this year's disc so that they would be easier for nonlawyers to understand. His first disc, released in 1998, was so laden with legalese that he included a glossary in each package. The 2006 release includes songs with names "Another Billable Christmas," "Livin' Life in Six Minutes," and "I Got a Footnote in my Stocking."

Savell said he has sold about 1,000 discs from the previous three years. But his main goal is fun, he said. Though he has no illusions about making it big as a singer and songwriter, he joked: "If they wanted to give me a Grammy, I wouldn't turn it down."
