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## **News and Legislation Relating to Employment and Background Checks**

### **News and Federal Legislation:**

#### **Background Checks**

- On October 5<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in a lawsuit filed by employees of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California against the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) regarding background checks required for employees of NASA contractors. The employees contend that the checks are an invasion of their privacy and are unnecessary. NASA claims that the checks are not overly invasive and should be allowed to take place. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had found in favor of the employees and issued an injunction to block the background checks.  
(<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-court-scientists-privacy-20101006.0.2595028.story>)

### **News and State Legislation:**

#### **Background Checks**

- On October 8<sup>th</sup>, LifeWay Christian Resources, an arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, reported that 600 employees had been identified as felons following widespread background checks performed at over 900 churches and organizations. The checks were in response to recent claims of child abuse. The Southern Baptist Convention, along with other major religious groups, is calling on all churches to perform background checks on any staff or members who work with children.  
([http://www.pressherald.com/life/religionandvalues/churches-do-more-checking-on-staff\\_2010-10-09.html](http://www.pressherald.com/life/religionandvalues/churches-do-more-checking-on-staff_2010-10-09.html))
- On September 29<sup>th</sup>, California enacted a bill (A.B. 2417) that requires a federal criminal history background check on prospective tribal customary adoptive parents and on persons over 18 years old within the household.  
([http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab\\_2401-2450/ab\\_2417\\_bill\\_20100929\\_chaptered.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_2401-2450/ab_2417_bill_20100929_chaptered.pdf))