02. Business

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01. Business Administration

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01.02.01 Medical Marijuana: A Hodgepodge of State Laws

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Legalized marijuana for medical uses started with California in 1995. Since then, 20 states have enacted a myriad of contradictory laws. All state laws continue to conflict with federal law, where any use of marijuana is prohibited. The paper summarizes the different types of medical marijuana laws and groups them into some common policy areas.

01.02.02 Law School Marketing and Deceptive Advertising

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Law schools aggressively compete for students. With the heightened economic pressures, schools have resorted to some less than admirable tactics to gain new students. This paper examines some of the abuses in law school marketing and proposes some modest changes to all law schools to recruit with integrity.
01.02.03 FATIGUE and MEDICAL ERRORS

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This paper examines the relationship between fatigue and errors made by medical professionals. We initially describe fatigue and its effect on judgment and decision making. We then survey the occurrences of fatigue-related medical errors to determine whether fatigue is significantly contributing to the number of medical errors. Finally, we explore possible processes that might be employed to reduce or eliminate fatigue-related medical errors.

01.02.04 Country Institutional Distance and Franchise System Performance

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Drawing insights from neo-institutional theory, the present study suggests institutional distance is related to franchise system performance in international setting. I advance the argument that the partnership between an international franchise system and a franchisee in a host country is constrained by the level of differences in the environment. Each country shows specific institutional characteristics that build a distance -geographic, regulative, economic, normative, political, and cognitive- between franchise system and franchisee, and influence the final performance of the system. Using factor analysis, I identify the main factors of institutional distance. Following, I applied a correlation analysis to test the hypotheses. The results suggest that the dimensions of institutional distance are related to franchise system performance. The relationship between institutional distance and franchise performance is more important between partners when the level investment is low (<50K) and high (>101 K), the franchise system have few years of operation (< 39 years), and the franchise operate in the services and retail industry.

01.02.05 An Investigation of the Declining U.S. Natural Gas Imports

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It is evident that the natural gas imports of the U.S. have been declining in recent years. Several demand and supply factors may be behind the decline in the imports. The proliferating production appears to be the main driving force behind the imports decline. In addition, staggering demand due to efficiency improvement and more or less normal weather in more recent years could be contributing to it as well. In our study, we examine several aspects of gas import declines. Specifically, we study the patterns of the gas imports in more recent years with respect to the sources of imports such as pipeline imports and LNG imports. In addition, we study the connections between the declining patterns in imports and the increases in the production pattern. The trend in consumption pattern and its connection with imports will also be investigated. The data will be based on the information from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Empirical analysis based on this data will be expected to provide some stylized facts about the gas imports, as well as some information about the factors behind the decline in imports. Our study hopefully will provide some insight into the future of the gas import and export business.
Existing research depicts an increasing trend across different industries toward outsourcing logistics-related activities. The decision to outsource transportation or keep it in-house is widely acknowledged to be at the top of that list. While the consensus is building around the importance of the cost component related to the outsourcing decision, other factors should not be overlooked. The purpose of the current research is, first, to systematize the various factors affecting the transportation decision and second, to investigate the extent to which “soft” factors (other than cost) contribute to the decision-making process. Initial insights from trade publications and personal experiences from industry experts further supported the overarching research question driving the study - how important are emotions in business overall and particularly in outsourcing compared to the related tangible considerations. Qualitative research methodology was used to develop an assessment tool or a frame of reference to help evaluate the transportation outsourcing decision. In-depth interviews served as the primary method to gain a better understanding regarding the role of emotions and cost considerations in the transportation outsourcing decision. The results supported the initial notion that together with a detailed cognitive assessment of the transporter capabilities, the outsourcing decision involves a considerable emotional component.