



## *Uber Legal Issues Might Go Long Way In Defining Sharing Economy, Investor's Business Daily, ft. Tad A. Devlin*

Tad A. Devlin was quoted in an *Investor's Business Daily* article by Richard Acello on February 2, 2016.

*Uber, the popular ride-sharing service for the new sharing economy, continues to drive into legal problems with the old economy. Uber is being sued by drivers who have formed a class action so that they can be regarded as employees, in Douglas O'Connor et al v. Uber Technologies Inc., filed in U.S. District Court for Northern California. The suit has a long way to go, but it could involve as many as 160,000 drivers.*

*It is a tough call at this point, which way a jury trial would go," said Tad Devlin, a partner at Kaufman Dolowich & Voluck in San Francisco who specializes in the sharing economy. But he says a pretrial settlement is likely.*

*An Uber settlement or trial would almost certainly have to decide the question of whether Uber drivers are "employees, quasi employees, independents or simply Ubers, which is what I call a new modern sharing economy hybrid employee," Devlin said.*

*In a landscape where the arrangements for business/worker relationships are fluid, Devlin says one answer might come in the form of a regulatory scheme that would address this new type of independent employee.*