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Florida Bar shines a light on its Constitution Commission

The Florida Bar Helps the Public Learn About a Major Review of the State Constitution

Did you know that every 20 years, a 37-member Constitution Revision Commission reviews Florida's entire state constitution and proposes changes to voters? Most people in Florida don't know much (if anything) about this, either?and the review is occurring right now. That's why The Florida Bar recently launched a statewide public education program called "Protect Florida Democracy: Our Constitution, Our Rights, Our Courts." The program's website offers a fascinating glimpse of this process (currently, Florida is the only state with this kind of review), as well as a model for how to capture the public's attention through text, video, and infographics.

Pipeline Problem Has Serious Implications for Underrepresented Hispanic Population

Currently, people of Hispanic descent make up 18 percent of the U.S. population, but only about 4 percent of the lawyer population. With such dismally low numbers among law students, lawyers, judges, and law school deans, it's likely that many Hispanic or Latino/a young people don't know a single lawyer who shares their cultural background?which decreases the likelihood that they'll become lawyers, either. It's a classic pipeline problem, and many experts say it's a long-term crisis that has serious implications for the Hispanic population in general. NBC News talks with the president of the Hispanic National Bar Association and others; what are some of the barriers they identify?

Public Defense Problem in Idaho Unites Leaders Across Deep Divides

Left and right. Red and blue. Conservative and liberal. If we are a sharply divided nation, are there still major issues on which the two ideological factions can agree? Yes?and one of them is the importance of legal representation for the poor. This is often thought of as more of a priority for those on the left side of the aisle, but in Idaho, it became everyone's problem in 2010, when the National Legal Aid and Defender Association published a scathing report about the state's public defense system. At The Marshall Project, Politico's M. Scott Mahaskey reveals how political leaders and others in Idaho have formed a sometimes uneasy alliance to solve a problem of shared concern.

If You Want to Remember This, Print It Out

Well, OK?you probably don't need to print out these short blurbs. But you might want to print the longer articles they link to, and maybe even take some notes. On paper. Yes, really. That's according to Michael Grothaus at Fast Company, based on several studies of how people best remember what they read, as opposed to how they think they best remember it. In one study, many people said they retain information better from a digital screen?but on a subsequent quiz, those who had read the information on paper scored much higher. What else do the studies say about the role of paper in an increasingly digital world?



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