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## State Bar of Wisconsin Faces Deunification Challenge

### State Supreme Court Holds Hearing on Petition to Split the State Bar of Wisconsin's Budget

Last week, the Wisconsin Supreme Court held a public hearing on a petition that seeks to establish a split budget for the State Bar of Wisconsin, with certain functions covered by mandatory dues and others by voluntary dues. The petition was filed last April by Steve Levine, a past president who has legally challenged the integrated bar structure more than 15 times since 1980. Which bar activities would be considered voluntary, what is the bar Board of Governors' position, and how soon could the court decide? Find out at [wisbar.org](http://wisbar.org).

### Is Money Bail Unsafe and Unfair? Working Group in California Proposes Alternatives

The usual system of money bail for criminal defendants is "unsafe and unfair" because "it bases a person's liberty on financial resources rather than the likelihood of future criminal behavior." That's according to a new report from a workgroup established by California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye to study the bail system in that state. Instead of money bail, the workgroup recommended a pretrial assessment that gives judges information to help them assess how much risk a defendant poses to the public, as well as pretrial programs that would give judges more tools to supervise defendants who are not incarcerated. A California Courts [news release](#) shares the workgroup's slate of 10 recommendations.

### Where Did All the Women Go? Survey Reveals a Steep Drop after Associate Level

Right after the associate level, there's a precipitous and persistent drop in the percentage of lawyers who are women, according to a new study by McKinsey & Co. and Thomson Reuters. The nationwide survey found that women lawyers are 29 percent less likely to be promoted to the first partnership level than men, only 19 percent of equity partners are women, and women lawyers are 43 percent more likely to leave equity partnership than men. Interestingly, 62 percent of the men surveyed believe that gender diversity is a high priority at their firm but only 36 percent of the women said they believe this. Read more, including partnership numbers for women of color, and what the respondents said about work-life balance, at [ABA Journal](#).

### Millennials and Marketers Move to Mobile Messaging and 'Chatbots'

If your bar has an e-newsletter (like this one), what's your open rate? If yours is like most others, you'd be thrilled with about 40 percent. So, how does 98 percent sound? There's a catch, though: You'd have to think in terms of more succinct communications, because that high open rate is for mobile messaging, including via WhatsApp. [Fast Company](#) recaps a talk given at its recent Innovation Festival, where one tech CEO said that email and social media are already decreasing in prominence as brand marketers pursue Millennials via messaging and "chatbots." Should your bar get in on this trend?



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