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Issue 134 | November 13

ABA Relaunches Veterans Claims Assistance Network

ABA Launches Military and Veterans Legal Center, Restarts Network for Assistance with VA Claims

Just in time for Veterans Day (Monday, Nov. 11), ABA President Bob Carlson introduced the newly formed ABA Military and Veterans Legal Center, which will create special projects, networks, CLEs, and resources toward increased access to legal services for veterans. The ABA recently held a Veterans Benefits Claims 101 CLE that was attended live and via webinar by more than 200 lawyers, Carlson notes at [ABA Journal](#). The center also has relaunched the Veterans Claims Assistance Network (VCAN), which connects unrepresented veterans with pro bono lawyers who help the veterans assemble their initial VA disability compensation claims. What else will the center do, and how does its work relate to the now-completed ABA Veterans Legal Service Initiative?

Study Finds Much Room for Improvement in Gender Diversity on Event Panels

Did you know there's a clever word to describe conference presentations where every speaker in a session is male? They're called "manels" and they're still distressingly common, writes Ernie Smith at [Associations Now](#). A new report from event technology firm Bizzabo found that less than one third of presenters globally were women, and that the gender gap was largest at events focused on technology. What else can you learn from the Gender Diversity & Inclusion in Events Report, which involved analyzing 60,000 presenters at events over the past five years?

Judicial Elections: High-Profile Incumbents Win in Arkansas, West Virginia

Last Tuesday's midterm elections brought noteworthy wins for incumbent supreme court judges in two states: Arkansas and West Virginia. In Arkansas, Justice Courtney Goodson was re-elected after not prevailing in her federal lawsuit to halt attack ads against her, funded by conservative groups. Goodson previously won a separate lawsuit in state court, over a different ad campaign. In West Virginia, voters elected as justices former GOP state House speaker Tim Armstead and former Republican congressman Evan Jenkins, both of whom had been temporarily appointed to the court after their predecessors resigned amid controversy over court spending. [ABA Journal](#) has more details.

A Warning to Law Firms: Recession Coming, and Usual Cost Cutting Won't Fix It

We're overdue for another recession, according to Richard Lau and Thomas Suh at [law.com](#). And while this next one may be less devastating for the general economy than the recession of 2008, it may be especially hard on the legal industry. Why? Lau and Suh say there are a few indicators, especially the tendency among large corporate clients to avoid assigning an entire matter to a single firm and instead give portions to a variety of entities, or even outsource high-volume tasks to overseas teams of non-lawyers. With those habits in place, the usual cost-cutting measures (raising prices, cutting expenses via layoffs and other means, and slowing or shrinking equity partner ranks) may not be enough. So, what will help law firms survive the next recession?

Scholarship Applications Open for 2019 ABA Bar Leadership Institute

The 2019 ABA Bar Leadership Institute (March 13-15 in Chicago) will be here before you know it?and the scholarship application process is already under way. The ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services is offering three scholarships for presidents-elect and other incoming leaders, and the National Association of Bar Executives has earmarked another scholarship to be awarded to an executive director who is a NABE member. The application deadline for both types of scholarships is Tuesday, January 8. Read more about the eligibility criteria, and [apply today!](#)



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