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SOLACE Lends a Helping Hand

U.S. District Judge Lauded for Co-Founding SOLACE Program to Help Lawyers, Legal Professionals

About 25 states have a SOLACE (Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel?All Concern Encouraged) program, whether through a bar organization or otherwise, to provide support for legal professionals in times of need. The December issue of [ABA Journal](#) spotlights SOLACE's co-founder, U.S. District Judge Jay C. Zainey, in its "Members Who Inspire" feature. Zainey, who was also the first solo practitioner to serve as president of the Louisiana State Bar Association, founded SOLACE with fellow lawyer and friend Mark Suprenant more than 15 years ago, when Suprenant's wife Monica (also a lawyer) suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm. Learn more about SOLACE and about what inspires Zainey to help legal professionals assist their colleagues during difficult times.

Ohio State Bar Association Rolls Out New Dues Plans

The Ohio State Bar Association recently debuted its widely anticipated new dues model, with two main levels: the Membership Plan (MP) and the Membership Value+ Plan (MVP+). A third, pared-down level is available to emeritus, inactive, or retired attorneys. MP is \$315 per year, and MVP+ is \$395; among the extra benefits with MVP+ are: a larger discount on CLE, complimentary membership in two sections rather than one, a discount on an automated forms library, and complimentary consultations in both practice management and finance/student debt management. An [online chart](#) gives a more detailed comparison.

Report: Branding Is a Factor in Big Year for Big Law, Boutique Small Firms

2018 has been a big year for law firms overall, according to a report cited by [Bloomberg Law Big Law Business](#), with revenue growing by an average of 6.3 percent in the first nine months of 2018, nearly twice the growth posted during the same period in 2017. Both big firms and boutique small firms are doing especially well, but mid-size firms may see more consolidation in 2019 because of market volatility. Much of the growth within Big Law is due to private equity deals, with branding and specific practice focus cited as another important driver of success for firms of all sizes. What else does the Citi Private Bank 2019 Client Advisory report have to say about the year ahead?

ABA Releases Revised Standards for Care, Representation of Unaccompanied Child Immigrants

"Regardless of changes in politics, we must remember that we are dealing with children," a newly released report from the ABA Commission on Immigration states. "We must continue to afford them special consideration to ensure that our immigration enforcement and adjudication systems acknowledge their need for protection and our nation's fundamental traditions." The 90-page report, called "Standards for the Custody, Placement and Care; Legal Representation; and Adjudication of Unaccompanied Alien Children in the United States," is an update to the ABA's standards pertaining to unaccompanied child immigrants, first issued in 2004. The revised standards were adopted by the ABA House of Delegates in August 2018. An [ABA news item](#) has links to the report and to a summary of recent changes to U.S. asylum rules.



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