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Issue 139 | January 15

A Succession Plan for the CFO?

What if Your Bar's CFO Quits Tomorrow?

If your bar has a succession plan for its chief staff executive, congratulations. But what about the chief financial officer? A recent survey by Robert Half Management Services found that nearly half of the organizations surveyed (and 63 percent of those with fewer than 50 employees) had no succession plan for the CFO. Another survey, from Korn Ferry, found that 81 percent of respondents' organizations would be unable to immediately replace their CFO. Are the reasons for the lack of a plan all due to organizational culture? Or is there something about the nature of the CFO role that makes a succession plan less likely? Learn more at [Associations Now](#).

Not Such a Banner Year After All? A Different Take on the Citi Report

The 2019 edition of an annual Citi report on law firms' fiscal performance garnered a lot of attention (including here in Bar Leader Weekly) because it contained welcome news of overall growth. But Mark A. Cohen, CEO of Legal Mosaic and a contributor at [Forbes.com](#), thinks most of this coverage has been too rosy. The real story, Cohen writes, is the widening gap between elite firms that are doing very well, and everyone else. Also, the 6.3 percent revenue growth highlighted in the Citi report is offset by a 5.9 percent increase in firm costs. What "ominous trends" in the report does Cohen believe signal a focus on short-term profit at the expense of long-term sustainability and evolution to better meet clients' needs?

New Executive Director for Kansas Bar Association, Kansas Bar Foundation: Shelby Lopez

The Kansas Bar Association recently announced that Shelby Lopez is the new executive director of the association and of the Kansas Bar Foundation. Lopez, who started at the KBA in December, was most recently executive director of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions, which licenses and regulates engineers, architects, landscape architects, surveyors, and geologists. Lopez began her career as a chiropractor; during that time, she took a year-long sabbatical to volunteer for AmeriCorps VISTA, which sparked a lifelong interest in public service. Learn more about Lopez via a [KBA news release](#).

As Law School Applications Increased, Some Schools Decreased Their 1L Classes

In response to an 8 percent increase in applications nationwide, many law schools increased their 1L class for this academic year. But a few made the strategic decision that smaller is better, which led to an increase in the median LSAT score among their admittees, and at some schools, an increase in admittees' median undergraduate GPA as well. While it takes some careful budgeting to bring in the same amount of revenue while reducing the class size, according to [ABA Journal](#), there are a few benefits for law schools: higher bar pass rates, better employment outcomes, and a chance to climb in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. Which schools made this kind of move? and are there also some advantages for prospective law students?

Applications for ABA Presidential Appointments Are Due February 15, Encouraged ASAP

ABA President-elect Judy Perry Martinez is now seeking candidates for approximately 700 presidential appointments to standing committees, special committees, commissions, and other ABA entities and initiatives. (Those who are appointed will begin their terms in August 2019). All ABA members are eligible and welcome to apply and are encouraged to do so well in advance of the February 15 deadline. The [presidential appointment page](#) offers not only the application itself, but also helpful tips and FAQs regarding the types of appointments that are available, what can help an applicant stand out, and how the process works.



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