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Nonlawyer Ownership in the Western States?

Will Ethics Changes in Western States Help Lead Accounting Firms into Legal Market?

In an effort to increase access to legal services, task forces in three Western states? California, Utah, and Arizona?are looking at relaxing their state bar ethics rules. But could this have the unintended consequence of giving the "Big Four" accounting companies (EY, PwC, Deloitte, and KPMG) a toehold in the U.S. legal market? The Sarbanes-Oxley Act prohibits audit firms from providing certain non-audit services to their clients. But if state bar legal service ownership rules were relaxed, one legal ethics professor says, a Big Four company could offer legal services as long as those clients were not also clients of the company's audit division. How likely is this scenario?and what could it mean for consumers and for Big Law? Find out at [Bloomberg Law Big Law Business](#).

Support from Silicon Valley Accelerator May Indicate that Legal Tech Is Booming

Maybe you've never heard of Y Combinator, the Silicon Valley "accelerator" that provides money, support, and networking for a select few startups. But you've probably heard of some of its alumni, such as Airbnb, Dropbox, and Reddit. Its success at gambling on new ideas before they hit big has earned it a reputation as a bellwether of trends in the tech sector?and it may be that YC believes legal tech's moment has arrived. Eight for-profit and nonprofit legal tech organizations have taken part since 2018, [ABA Journal](#) reports. What are some other signs that the legal tech market is coming into its own?

New York State Bar Association, County Bars to Take on Judicial Screening Role

In New York, the state bar and county bars will take over the job of screening candidates for judicial office, putting an end to a vetting process that some say allowed incumbent judges to favor other incumbent judges. For the past 15 years, judicial candidates in New York have been evaluated by commissions appointed by the state's chief judge, while bars in New York City and other populous areas of the state conducted their own interviews and made recommendations. Chief Judge Janet DiFiore disbanded the commissions at the end of 2018, and it then fell to the New York State Bar Association to make recommendations for the new system. At [New York Law Journal](#), read more about some details that were voted on at a meeting of the bar's House of Delegates earlier this month.

The Power of Culture: How Individuals and Organizations Shape Each Other

Allen Lloyd, executive director of the Montana Society of CPAs, had a revelatory experience at his previous association. When he started there, he was known as a firebrand who was almost always on the side of change, challenging others to do things differently. But a few years in, there was a lot of turnover, and some of the new people were rabble-rousers?and Lloyd found himself defending the status quo. Individuals and organizations shape and are shaped by each other, he writes at [AssociationSuccess.org](#). How can you build a culture in which the organization positively impacts the people in it, and helps them feel successful and fulfilled?



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