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The Latest Trend in the Bar World -- Public Service Academies

Arkansas Bar Association Starts Public Service Academy for Lawyers

To address the downward trend in numbers of lawyer-legislators and to encourage its members to participate in any form of public service, the Arkansas Bar Association is starting a public service academy. In a commentary piece at [Arkansas Business](#), bar President Brian Rosenthal notes that this will be the third such bar-sponsored academy in the nation, joining others in North Carolina and Tennessee. Why does Rosenthal believe the Arkansas Bar Association is particularly well positioned to launch and manage this type of program?

'Yes' Is More Meaningful When You Know How to Say 'No'

The fear of missing out is universal enough to have a well-known acronym and hashtag: #FOMO. But if you let that fear override your gut feeling that it would be best to pass on a particular opportunity, you might end up exhausted and overwhelmed. Learning how to say "no" is really about setting and keeping appropriate boundaries, writes Samantha Radocchia, a technology entrepreneur and blockchain expert. At [Fast Company](#), Radocchia shares how becoming less of a "yes woman" helped her regain her time and a more positive mindset.

Thomas Jefferson School of Law Loses Its ABA Accreditation

Last week, the council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar announced that it has withdrawn its approval of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. The school, based in San Diego, was placed on probation in November 2017 after being found to be noncompliant with three accreditation standards pertaining to program resources, rigor, and admissions policies and practices. [ABA Journal](#) has more details, including the school's recent bar passage rates and how the school said it had improved since being placed on probation.

Law School Tuition Freezes: An Idea Whose Time Has Come Again?

When the law school bubble burst and students' high debt loads made headlines, many law schools responded by freezing or even cutting their tuition. More recently, many schools have instead cut their class sizes as a way to improve their graduates' career prospects. But that might be an artificial fix, writes Staci Zaretsky at [Above the Law](#) and many new law grads are still heavily burdened by their student loans. Now, one school—the University of Hawaii William R. Richardson School of Law—is freezing its tuition until 2023. Will other schools follow suit? And will it help?

ABA Diversity and Inclusion Center Toolkit Helps Judges, Lawyers Challenge Implicit Bias

Many experts say that regardless of whether we consciously hold negative beliefs based on race, ethnicity, gender, and other such factors, we all have implicit bias—a set of unconscious attitudes that we might not even realize. Judges, prosecutors, and public

defenders aren't exempt from this, and their implicit bias can affect whether someone is treated fairly in court. A [toolkit](#) from the ABA Diversity and Inclusion Center offers videos, PowerPoints, and other resources to help judges and lawyers understand and challenge their implicit bias to ensure a more equitable justice system.



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