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Potential Changes in Legal Services Delivery in California - What Comes Next?

Will State Bar of California Task Force Proposals Bring Big Changes to Legal Services Delivery?

What can be expected to result from late June's proposals by a task force at the State Bar of California? Possibly, tremendous changes in the delivery of legal services?and almost certainly, a great deal of controversy and debate. Among the potential hot buttons is a proposal that aims to increase access to justice by amending ABA Model Rule 5.4 to permit law firms to share fees with nonlawyers. Another proposal would allow tech-driven delivery systems to "engage in authorized practice of law activities." [Bloomberg Law](#) takes a comprehensive look at the proposals and at how rocky the road ahead might be.

State of the Art: A Look at How Legal Tech Is Increasing Access to Justice

In a recent survey, more than two-thirds of American adults said that they would be willing to use online legal services if it would save them money; younger adults and those with an annual household income below \$100,000 were even more open to this idea. Meanwhile, an app called Legal Risk Detector can help identify legal needs that people didn't even know they had. Technological advances in legal services continue to evolve at a rapid pace, spurred in part by the ABA Center for Innovation. A paid piece at [The Atlantic](#) gives an in-depth overview of the role of technology in legal services, and the ABA's role in encouraging more innovation.

What Can Help Bring Lawyers to Rural 'Legal Deserts?'

After competing on "America's Next Top Model" and then modeling in Los Angeles and New York, Furonda Brasfield returned home to rural Arkansas to practice law. What brought her back? An awareness of the persistent legal needs in her community?and a new program called the Rural Practice Incubator Project. Across the country, law schools, bar associations, and other stakeholders (many using the State Bar of South Dakota's Project Rural Practice as a model) are working to recruit lawyers to practice in remote, underserved areas. An article at the [Pew Charitable Trusts' Stateline](#) gathers compelling statistics about rural "legal deserts" and the latest efforts to close these gaps.

Hate Giving Feedback? It's an Important Form of Storytelling at Your Association

If you manage people, an important part of your job is to provide feedback to your employees, writes Mark Athitakis at [Associations Now](#)?and there's a good chance that you dread it. To make it easier, Athitakis writes, consider it a form of storytelling. Whether your feedback is positive, negative, or a combination, he explains, if you don't tell your direct reports how you think they're doing, they're likely to imagine a much less accurate (and often more negative) "story" about their performance. How else can the concept of storytelling help you support your employees in developing their strengths?



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