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Access to Justice Provides an Economic Boost

Global Study: Increasing Access to Justice Boosts National Economy

Improving access to civil justice doesn't just increase fairness, according to a Belgian study that looked at the experiences of 107 countries over 44 years. It also has a noticeable, positive effect on a nation's economic growth. As a simple metric for access to justice, researchers at the Catholic University of Louvain tracked the number of professional judges per capita. Increasing access to justice by 1 percent increases the growth rate of per capita GDP by 0.86 percentage points over five years, the study concluded. How does the United States compare with several other countries? and is there a point where this positive effect loses its potency? Find out at the [Law Society Gazette](#).

Business Professionals Note Toxic Workplace, Lack of Respect in Big Law

Having office supplies thrown at them, seeing their emails go flagrantly ignored, and being publicly shamed when they make a mistake: Those are just a few "war stories" told by many business professionals working in big law firms. Whether or not they have experienced the more extreme forms of hostility, nonlawyer professionals often note that there's a "caste system" in which they are shown markedly less respect than the lawyers in the firm. Adding to the problem is that even as the legal profession becomes more aware and proactive about lawyer mental health, professional staff in Big Law often do not have access to those same wellness resources. The kicker, according to [The American Lawyer](#), is that in today's legal environment, business professionals play an increasingly vital role in a firm's success. Will some big firms pay a high price if they don't address this negative aspect of their culture?

Legal Tech, Court Websites May Have Some Holes in Their Digital Safety Net

Among tech companies, it's become standard practice to have a "bug bounty" program that offers a monetary reward for users who report problems and vulnerabilities in hardware or software. However, reports [ABA Journal](#), those programs are scarce among legal tech platforms and difficult to find on some court-related websites?even though the kind of information being exchanged seems to warrant extra protection. Also, federal anti-hacking laws are written so broadly that innocently stumbling on a vulnerability and reporting it can result in civil or even criminal legal action. Vulnerability disclosure policies address this?but those, too, are less prevalent in legal tech and on court system websites. What are some consequences to these ways in which the legal industry seems to lag behind?

Road-Tripping CEO Offers Case Study in Association Growth by Listening to Members, Nonmembers

Since its new CEO arrived in 2013, revenue for the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU) has grown by 31 percent, and since 2015, 465 new members have joined. One key to those great results is that the CEO, B. Dan Berger, has made it a point to get out and meet as many members and nonmembers as he possibly could; in fact, he spent about four or five months, straight, on the road. His purpose was to

ask executives and senior managers at credit unions what they wanted from their trade association?and then (a step that he cautions against overlooking) bring back and act on what they told him. At [Associations Now](#), Mark Athitakis shares what Berger learned on the road, and how NAFCU has used those insights to move forward.



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