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The Critical Need for Lawyer Assistance Programs

During Pandemic, Lawyer Assistance Programs See More Distress but Also Less Stigma

The bad news is that lawyers, who already had high levels of stress, anxiety, and depression, seem to be feeling worse during the pandemic. The good news? They're also talking about it more—and more of them are seeking help from lawyer assistance programs. Patrick Krill, an expert in lawyer mental health and well-being, notes that this increased openness is also an effect of the pandemic, and one that he hopes will continue. At [ABA Journal](#), LAP directors and others report what lawyers in their area are experiencing, and whether this has led to increased call volume and higher attendance at programs on lawyer well-being.

What Larger Changes Are Likely to Arise from Regulatory Projects in Utah and Arizona?

As Utah's sandbox and Arizona's alternative business structures program rapidly progress, many observers say they will inevitably lead to similar efforts in other states—and at least one big law firm is taking notice. A partner with Snell & Wilmer, which has offices in both states, says that while the firm has no immediate plans to give technologists or other nonlawyers an ownership stake, it is open to this possibility. What are the latest developments in these two states, and have their regulatory changes sparked interest from big accounting firms, as anticipated? Find out at [Bloomberg Law](#).

Latest in Dispute Between LegalMatch and State Bar of California: \$10,000 in Sanctions

In the ongoing dispute between LegalMatch and the State Bar of California, the bar appears to be gaining more ground. Late last month, Superior Court Judge Ethan Schulman said LegalMatch had failed to convince him that a state law on regulation of lawyer referral services infringes on its First Amendment rights—and he also said the company must pay \$10,000 in sanctions for its behavior during discovery. Legal Match had considered itself to be operating as an online Yellow Pages, but in 2019, it was ordered to register with the bar as a lawyer referral service. In the most recent discovery, LegalMatch refused to provide information about its clients prior to 2019. [Bloomberg Law](#) has more details about this long-standing conflict and why Judge Schulman thought sanctions were warranted.

Because of ABA Diversity Policy and Recent Court Ruling, Florida Lawyers Can't Receive Credit for ABA CLE

A recent Florida Supreme Court order against CLE course approval for courses using instructor selection quotas based on race, ethnicity, gender, and other factors means lawyers in that state can no longer receive credit for ABA CLE programs. The ABA's Diversity & Inclusion CLE Policy, in place since 2017, expresses an expectation that all of its sponsored or co-sponsored CLE programs will include diverse speakers, and it states requirements for programs with three or more panelists, five to eight panelists, and nine or more panelists. The Florida Bar Business Law Section enacted a substantially similar CLE panelist diversity policy; this prompted the court ruling in April, which in turn led to the action by regulators from The Florida Bar. Learn more at [ABA Journal](#).

Update: New York State Bar Association to Stay in Its Current Headquarters

Last week, we told you that the New York State Bar Association was considering a move. According to a [NYSBA news item](#), the association will remain in the foundation-owned historic building in Albany. Under a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations, NYSBA is responsible for renovating and maintaining the Bar Center but will no longer pay rent. Instead, it will provide a substantial amount of in-kind service to the foundation, and the two organizations will collaborate on fundraising activities.

Virtual Board Training from the ABA Division for Bar Services

Shake up this year's board orientation with Bar Services' virtual trainings. Facilitated via Zoom, these Virtual Board Orientation and Education Sessions will help strengthen board members' personal and professional connections; develop shared expectations for individual board member responsibilities and a shared culture for collective board action; and focus the board on the strategic questions where they can especially add value. To view sample agendas and pricing, visit the [Consulting Services page](#), or [email Teresa Peavy](#) for more information.



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