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New Data from Utah's Regulatory Sandbox

Data from Utah Sandbox Shows High Number of Services Provided, Low Number of Consumer Complaints

You've probably heard of Utah's regulatory sandbox, a means to pilot new models of legal services delivery. But how much is known about the participants in the sandbox, the number of services they've provided, and whether they've helped or harmed consumers? As it turns out, there's a lot of data in cumulative reports produced each month by the Utah Supreme Court's Office of Legal Services Innovation. To help make sense of that data, the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) highlighted and analyzed some key figures from the July 2021 report. For example, more than 3,000 legal services have been sought by about 2,500 unique clients, and there have been one complaint per every 1,000 services and one harm-based complaint per every 1,500 services. Learn more about the providers, their services, and how they're evaluated, in an IAALS blog post.

LSAT Scores and Law School Enrollment Are Up?But Is This Good News?

Is the online, at-home Law School Admission Test offered during the pandemic inherently easier than previous versions of the test? The Law School Admission Council says no? though it concedes that this format helps ease testing jitters?and that LSAT scores are up because students have used their shut-in time to study more. Whatever the reason, LSAT scores are up?and many law schools are already overenrolled. What could that mean down the road for students who did well, but not well enough to get into an elite school? At Above the Law, Jonathan Wolf, a civil litigator who wrote a book about how to graduate from law school debt-free, shares his concerns and some advice for those planning to take the LSAT this October.

Alaska Bar Association Launching Diversity Committee, Native American Leaders Call for Change

Leaders within Alaska's Native American communities say there's a lot of work to do to address inequities in the state's justice system, including encouraging more Indigenous people to become lawyers and educating current lawyers, judges, and others about the systemic issues that can lead to increased substance abuse and criminal offenses. Alaska Bar Association President Ben Hofmeister agrees?and says his bar is lagging behind some others that already have committees and other groups working on diversity, equity, and inclusion. But that?s about to change: The bar approved a diversity initiative in May 2021 and is now assembling a committee. Public radio and TV outlet KTOO talks with Hofmeister; Natasha Singh, the general counsel for the Tanana Chiefs Conference; and Alex Cleghorn, the legal and policy director at the Alaska Native Justice Center. What do they have to say about how the justice system affects Native Americans in Alaska and about how the bar and others can bring positive changes?

Law Day 2022 Theme to Focus on Constitution in Times of Change

The ABA Division for Public Education has announced that the theme for Law Day 2022 is

"Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change." The U.S. Constitution is a dynamic document, the division explains, and our nation may never be perfect. But both leaders and everyday citizens can work together toward a "more perfect Union" by defining and refining what is in our Constitution and helping to fulfill its promises. Read more about this theme and sign up for updates at the Law Day web page.



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