

Is this email not displaying correctly? [View In Browser](#)



Issue 277 | November 17

The Florida Bar Rejects Nonlawyer Ownership & Fee Splitting

The Florida Bar Board of Governors Unanimously Opposes Nonlawyer Ownership, Fee Splitting, Endorses One Recommendation by Court Committee on Legal Services, Will Take Up Others at Next Meeting

At a special meeting of The Florida Bar Board of Governors last week, two recommendations by the state supreme court's Special Committee to Improve the Delivery of Legal Services were met with unanimous opposition: to allow nonlawyer ownership within law firms and to allow fee splitting with nonlawyers, both within a testing environment. The board also opposed the special committee's recommendation to simplify lawyer advertising rules and end mandatory prior review of some ads but endorsed the recommendation to improve education about an existing bar rule that allows unbundled legal services. Time ran out before the board could discuss the sandbox-like legal lab that the special committee recommended establishing, and before it could vote on a modified version of the proposal to allow registered paralegals to perform more legal services while under a lawyer's supervision. What were some of the points raised during discussion, and how soon will the board meet again to finish its deliberations and recommendations regarding the special committee's report? Find out via [a news item on the bar's website](#).

Spurred by New York State Bar Association Well-Being Report, Experts Discuss Lawyers' Hurdles to Getting Help with Addiction, Mental Illness

How should bar authorities respond when a lawyer's potential disciplinary infractions stem from addiction or mental health issues?and why do so many lawyers resist seeking help, even when they face disbarment? These thought-provoking questions arose from a report by the New York State Bar Association Task Force on Attorney Well-Being (which earlier made headlines for its recommendations aimed at ensuring that lawyers can take sufficient time off). The task force recommended that options such as diversion programs be expanded and applied as broadly as possible, while also noting that few lawyers have taken advantage of a diversion program that's been in place in New York since 2016. [Reuters](#) talks with lawyer well-being expert Patrick Krill and with lawyer in recovery Jeffrey Grant about what gets in the way and about what kind of outreach and education by bars, law schools and others could help decrease those barriers.

Arizona Law Grad Petitions to Be Admitted to Bar, Citing Exam Software Crash as Reason He Didn't Pass

Many prospective lawyers who took remote bar exams in October 2020 and July 2021 reported some problems with the exam-proctoring software. Now, one law grad says that a crash during the exam cost him the five points he needed to pass?and that he wants those five points back. Jordan Evan Greenman has filed a petition for review with the Arizona Supreme Court because during the July 2021 bar exam, his screen went black, his keyboard and mouse stopped responding, and he had to reboot his computer, which he says caused him to lose six minutes and much of his concentration. [ABA Journal](#) has more details, including how Greenman's scores on earlier sections compare with those for the portion after the crash, and who is representing him regarding his petition.

State Bar of California Board Seeks Public Comment on Proposal to Build Legal Paraprofessional Program

Under a proposal currently up for public comment, legal paraprofessionals in California could represent clients in court in some instances, though not jury trials, and could have minority ownership interests in law firms. Among the practice areas mentioned in the proposal by the California Paraprofessional Program Working Group are family law, housing, consumer debt, employment/income maintenance and collateral criminal. The public comment period ends Jan. 12, 2022, and the State Bar of California Board of Trustees is expected to consider a final proposal shortly thereafter. Bar Executive Director Leah Wilson says that the bar has studied this general concept since at least 1987 and that she hopes it will now become a reality. Why does she think it's a good idea, what other jurisdictions have similar programs, and what have some opponents said? Learn more at [ABA Journal](#).

2022 ABA Bar Leadership Institute Registration Is Now Open!

Registration for the 2022 ABA Bar Leadership Institute (March 16-18, 2022) is now open, and the ABA Division for Bar Services and Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services are thrilled to welcome attendees back to the Chicago Marriott Downtown. This annual event, which one attendee called "the best thing the ABA does," offers learning, leadership development, and connection to help bar leaders in their role as steward of their organization. Early bird registration ends Jan. 31, 2022. Visit the [BLI registration page](#) not only to register, but also to see the agenda and other important information and to learn about the COVID-19 policies and practices for this event. We can't wait to see you in person!



[Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services](#)

[Read the latest issue of Bar Leader Magazine](#)

{{AA_HTML Manual - Chicago Footer}}