

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



Issue 281 | December 22

Sacramento Mayor Asks to Be Released from Consulting Contract With State Bar of California

Sacramento Mayor Asks to Be Released from Consulting Contract to Help State Bar of California with Proposals to License Legal Paraprofessionals

Last week, less than a full month after signing a \$35,000/seven-month contract with the State Bar of California, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg said he wants to be released from the agreement to help the bar develop and promote proposals to license legal paraprofessionals. A spokesperson for the mayor said he realized he doesn't have time for the work but would be glad to help as a volunteer. Steinberg has been challenged recently by issues involving Sacramento's chronic homelessness problem; meanwhile, bar leaders had already said they were reassessing the contract after lawmakers questioned whether it was an example of the bar straying from its core purpose. The bar is also reconsidering a \$45,000 lobbying contract and is getting some pushback regarding the Closing the Justice gap Working Group's exploration of whether to establish a regulatory sandbox. Learn more at [The Recorder](#).

New York State Bar Association: Lawyers Who Primarily Practice Elsewhere Can Join a Firm with Nonlawyer Ownership

Earlier this month, the New York State Bar Association issued an opinion that says lawyers who mostly practice elsewhere can join a firm with nonlawyer ownership. This follows a New York City Bar opinion in 2020 that lawyers should be allowed to enter into an ongoing business relationship with a law firm that has nonlawyer owners, under certain conditions. [Bloomberg Law](#) has more details, including what Zack DeMeola of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System says about this opinion and how it fits within the context of similar changes in other jurisdictions across the country.

Survey: Majority of Lawyers in Illinois Have Experienced Incivility, But Much Has Improved in Recent Years

According to a recent survey, 54 percent of lawyers in Illinois had experienced incivility in the past six months—a marked improvement from a similar survey from 2014, when about 85 percent of respondents said they had experienced incivility within a six-month period. According to the 2021 survey, the three most common forms of incivility that were reported were a sarcastic or condescending attitude, cited by 65 percent of those who said they had experienced incivility; misrepresenting or stretching the facts or negotiating in bad faith (63 percent); and inflammatory writings in correspondence, memos, briefs or motions (51 percent). What were some of the other examples of incivility that respondents reported, and what areas of practice were found to be especially prone to incivility? Find out at [ABA Journal](#).

ABA Standing Committees on Ethics and Professional Responsibility and Professional Regulation Consider Amendments, Seek Input

The ABA Standing Committees on Ethics and Professional Responsibility and Professional Regulation are considering amendments to the Comments of Model Rules of Professional Conduct 1.0 (Terminology), 1.1 (Competence), and 1.2 (Scope of Representation and Allocation of Authority between Client and Lawyer). The amendments, available in a [discussion draft](#), provide guidance on lawyers' client due diligence obligations under the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct. At the 2022 ABA Midyear Meeting, the committees will host a roundtable discussion on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Grand Hyatt Seattle. The committees are also seeking written comments on the discussion draft by Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022. To RSVP to comment at the roundtable, or to submit a written comment, please email [Natalia Vera](#).

2022-2023 ABA Presidential Appointment Process to Open December 31

Would you like to serve on a standing committee, special committee, commission, or other ABA entity? The ABA presidential appointment process for the bar year that begins in September 2022 will open soon, and all ABA members are invited to apply between Dec. 31, 2021, and Feb. 18, 2022. A [special invitation from ABA President-Elect Deborah Enix-Ross](#) has more information, including where the application will be posted, and whom to contact with any questions.

Bar Leader Weekly will be on hiatus next week. The next issue will be on Wednesday, January 5.



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

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

{{AA_HTML Manual - Chicago Footer}}