



**Issue 290 | March 9**

## **Data Breach at the State Bar of California**

### **State Bar of California Discovers Disciplinary Data Misuse, Also Votes to Scale Back Justice Gap Working Group**

Late last month, the State Bar of California discovered that a public website that aggregates nationwide court case records had accessed and posted a limited amount of data on about 260,000 of its confidential attorney discipline case records, along with approximately 60,000 public court case records. Within about two days after the bar discovered that these records were online, the website had removed all of the records, both confidential and nonpublic. The bar has taken additional steps to investigate this breach, assist individuals affected by it, and prevent future occurrences. [NBC Bay Area](#) has more information and a link to a webpage the bar established to give answers and updates. In other news from the State Bar of California, after strong criticism from the state legislature, the bar's board of trustees voted 8-2 to decrease both the scope and size of the Closing the Justice Gap Working Group. The group will now prioritize crafting a proposal for a regulatory sandbox. The bar has yet to determine which group members will be discharged, but the aim is to retain only group members who have experience specific to California. [ABA Journal](#) shares more details about what led to this decision, and a reaction from one high-profile working group member.

## **New Law School in Jacksonville Will Open to Students in Fall 2022**

After years of planning, Jacksonville University College of Law will launch its classes in fall 2022. The university's main campus is in Arlington, Fla., but the law school will be based in downtown Jacksonville for proximity to city hall, the public defender's office, the state attorney's office, and the county courthouse. Mayor Lenny Curry notes that Jacksonville is currently the largest U.S. city without a law school, and that this means residents who want to become lawyers must leave the area to earn their law degree. A news story at [news4jax.com](#) also notes that the school may help fill a new gap: Florida Coastal School of Law is no longer enrolling students after a conflict with the U.S. Department of Education over financial aid and accreditation. How much will tuition at the new law school cost, and how many students are expected in the inaugural class?

## **Investigative Article: In New York State, Poverty and Lack of Rural Lawyers Mean Many Parents Lose Their Children**

Little public transportation, spotty internet and phone service, high poverty rates, and few lawyers. That's the situation in much of rural New York state, and the result, according to a recent investigative piece, is that poor parents are inadequately represented in cases where they stand to lose their children. Things may be getting worse, according to data from eight rural counties: In the past 10 years, six of these counties lost more than half of the attorneys serving on panels to assist in child welfare cases, and one county lost three-quarters of them. How do some conditions typical of rural poverty often lead to allegations of child neglect, and what systemic factors often lead to a lack of representation for parents in those cases? Find out via this sobering article from [New York Focus](#), published in partnership with The Nation.

## Sanctions Against Russia Bring Complications for Some International Law Firms

When Russia invaded Ukraine, many other nations, including the United States, responded with economic sanctions. What has that meant for international law firms with offices in Russia? There are at least 20 such firms with offices in Moscow alone; their lawyers typically work with colleagues in New York and London, serving clients in finance, energy, and other sectors. As new sanctions roll out, this will mean losing business from prohibited clients; another possibility is that the firms will find new business in advising other clients on how to navigate the sanctions. There's also the matter of public opinion: At least one big law firm has removed from its website a recent press release about a \$2.3 billion deal involving two now-sanctioned clients in Russia. [Reuters](#) looks at the increasingly complicated web of sanctions and other economic consequences for law firms working in Russia.

**Bar Leader Weekly will be on hiatus for the next two weeks. The next issue will be on Wednesday, March 30.**



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