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Issue 291 | March 30

Florida Supreme Court Rejects Committee Proposals, Sends Bar Back to the Drawing Board

Florida Supreme Court Rejects Most Florida Bar Special Committee Recommendations, Asks the Bar to Propose Other Ideas to Improve Legal Services Delivery

After rejecting several recommendations by The Florida Bar Special Committee to Improve Delivery of Legal Services, the Florida Supreme Court has asked the bar to come up with some alternative proposals and file a report by December 30, 2022. Late last year, the bar's Board of Governors rejected most of the committee's recommendations, including a sandbox-like innovation lab to test nonlawyer ownership of law firms or attorney fee sharing with nonlawyers. The only recommendation the court says it will adopt is amending state bar rules to allow nonprofit legal services providers to organize as a corporation and to allow nonlawyers to serve on the boards of those nonprofit providers. Why did the court say it has asked the bar to try again? Find out at [ABA Journal](#).

Lawyers Join in Pro Bono Effort to Assist Ukrainians Living in United States

Almost 2,000 lawyers at more than 100 law firms and companies have signed up to help Ukrainians living in the United States obtain temporary deportation relief and work permits as part of a pro bono project organized by law firm Kirkland & Ellis and nonprofit organization Lawyers for Good Government. In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, earlier this month, the Biden administration said an estimated 75,000 Ukrainians living in the United States will be eligible to apply for Temporary Protected Status, a designation that will allow them to stay and work. Eligible individuals can complete and submit the application on their own, but a coordinator for the pro bono effort says the application is difficult to understand and that lawyers can also advise on other immigration relief that may be available. [Reuters](#) shares more details about this project.

Chair of Board Creating Blueprint for Washington State Legal Regulatory Lab Says Lawyers Need Not Fear

It's no secret that many lawyers are resistant to the idea of a regulatory sandbox or innovation lab, whether because they fear competition or undue pressure from nonlawyers, because they believe consumers could be harmed by the ideas to be tested, or both. But Michael Cherry, chair of the Washington Supreme Court Practice of Law Board, says these testing environments are safe for consumers and not as threatening to legal professionals' livelihoods as they might seem. Most participants in Utah's sandbox (a model being studied by Washington) are legal professionals testing alternative business structures, he notes, and all legal services being tested are subject to regulation by court order, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and relevant statutes. At the Washington State Bar Association's [NWSidebar](#), Cherry makes the case for sandboxes and similar testing environments and provides a detailed update on the latest version of his board's Blueprint for a Legal Regulatory Lab.

Is 'Access to Justice' the Best Way to Describe the Tools and Assistance Many People Need?

The phrase "access to justice" is often used when discussing many people's lack of adequate help with basic civil legal needs. Chase Hertel, a principal on LegalZoom's attorney services team and a member of the Legal Services Corporation's Emerging Leaders Council, believes it's not the right term. "Access to justice" suggests that people necessarily need lawyers and judges, he writes, when they really need legal information and services, from whatever source. At [Medium](#), Hertel spotlights three recent examples of how nonprofit legal aid organizations and for-profit service providers are helping people with a combination of tech tools and access to professional advice.

Get Ready for ABA Day, April 5-6, and Help Celebrate Its 25th Anniversary

Next week (April 5-6) will mark the 25th anniversary of ABA Day, the ABA's largest lobbying event of the year. Participants in this year's all-digital event will urge Congress to provide more student loan debt relief, pass the Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act, and increase funding for the Legal Services Corporation. Learn more via the ABA's [Washington Letter](#), and [register for ABA Day](#).

Coming This Spring: Best of BLI for Affinity Bar Leaders and for Young Lawyer Leaders

If you thought the 2022 ABA Bar Leadership Institute was valuable, we encourage you to share information about two upcoming programs with your affinity bar and young lawyer entity leader colleagues. Both sessions will include a mix of recorded and live programming that will be especially relevant to them and the entities they lead. [The Best of BLI: Affinity Bar Leaders](#) will be held Friday, April 22 from 12 to 4 p.m. Central; [The Best of BLI: Young Lawyer Leaders](#) will be held Friday, May 13 from 12 to 4 p.m. Central. Make sure your affinity bar and young lawyer group colleagues don't miss out!



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