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Drop in Pro Bono Participation

After a Spike in 2020, Pro Bono Hours for Lawyers at Big Firms Drop by 14% in 2021

2020 was a banner year for lawyers' pro bono participation, likely spurred by the pandemic, the presidential election, and other factors. But it appears that it didn't last: Among 126 big law firms across the country, the number of pro bono hours (4.6 million) dropped by 14% in 2021, according to a study released last month by the Pro Bono Institute. The general upward trend in pro bono hours that began in 2016 still holds true, but 2021 is the first year that the total number of hours dipped below the total for 2016. Perhaps reflecting a shift toward more revenue and fewer spare hours, big firms' charitable giving increased by 25% in 2021. What does the institute say about the drop in hours and whether big firms provide enough support for pro bono service? Find out at [Law360](#).

NALP Study: Overwhelming Majority of 2018 Law Grads Are Working, but Only About Half Work at Law Firms

Among the law school class of 2018, 97% of 1,477 grads surveyed were employed, according to a recent study by the National Association for Law Placement and the NALP Foundation—but only 51% were working in law firms. But that's not necessarily bad news for those graduates: Among all survey respondents, regardless of work setting, most said they were either extremely satisfied (42%) or somewhat satisfied (40%) with their current job, and only 14%—a historic low—said they were actively seeking a new job. More distressingly, however, 31% (and 46% among women) said the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis affected their mental health and well-being. [ABA Journal](#) highlights other key findings, including where grads are working other than in law firms, their annual compensation, and their average and median amounts of educational debt.

Ohio State Bar Association, Nebraska State Bar Association Sign On with New Legal Research Service Decisis

On the heels of Fastcase's 2021 acquisition of Casemaker, a new legal research service entered the bar and solo-small firm market: Decisis, which was created by a subsidiary of LexisNexis parent company RELX. Thus far, two bars—both of which previously offered Casemaker as a member benefit—now offer Decisis: the Ohio State Bar Association, as of October 2021, and the Nebraska State Bar Association, as of May 2022. Both bars convened test groups, either to try Decisis on its own or to compare it against Fastcase. At [LawSites](#), Bob Ambrogi shares why both bars say they went with Decisis, some context for this recent foray into the bar member benefit market, and thoughts from Fastcase cofounder and CEO Ed Walters.

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 seek comment on possible amendments to Rule 1.2(d) of the Model Rules of

Professional Conduct (Scope of Representation and Allocation of Authority between Client and Lawyer) to clarify lawyers' client due diligence obligations to avoid engaging, or assisting a client, in conduct that the lawyer knows is criminal or fraudulent. View the Second Discussion Draft [here](#). The Committees will hold an in-person public roundtable on Saturday, August 6, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Central in conjunction with the 2022 ABA Annual Meeting, and a second roundtable by Zoom on August 31, 2022. The exact location of the August 6 roundtable will be provided shortly. Written comments on the Second Discussion Draft are due by August 31, 2022. To RSVP for one of the roundtables and to submit comments, please email [Natalia Vera](mailto:Natalia.Vera@abaprot.org) by the dates noted in the Second Discussion Draft.



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