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Issue 307 | July 20

Former State Bar of California ED Faces Disciplinary Charges

State Bar of California Files Disciplinary Charges Against Former Executive Director Joe Dunn

Earlier this month, the State Bar of California filed formal disciplinary charges against its former executive director, Joe Dunn. The bar accused Dunn, whose four-year tenure at the bar concluded with his firing in 2014, of three counts of "moral turpitude." Dunn, a former state senator who now teaches at UC Irvine Law School, could lose his license to practice law. Dunn was one of several bar officials with whom now-disbarred lawyer Tom Girardi cultivated close relationships in order to evade discipline. However, the bar's charges against Dunn instead pertain to falsehoods that he allegedly told the bar's board in 2013 and 2014 regarding proposed legislation and expenses for a trip to Mongolia. Dunn is also accused of breaching his fiduciary duties by making these allegedly misleading statements. A lawyer for Dunn says an eight-year delay in filing charges is inexcusable and that the conduct in question was addressed years ago via internal investigations and extensive litigation. The Los Angeles Times has more details.

Software for Many Digital July 2022 Bar Exams Incompatible with Laptops Using Newest Intel Processors

July 2022 bar examinees with newer laptops might be in for a rude awakening if they didn't see or carefully read a recent notice from ExamSoft: Their devices may not be compatible with the company's Examplify software used to administer many states' digital bar exams. Windows devices using 12th-generation Intel processors, purchased in 2022, are incompatible with the software; in fact, the only devices that can be used are MacBooks that use macOS Catalina or above, or Windows laptops that are new enough to offer Windows 10 or 11 but old enough that they don't contain the latest Intel processors. How much advance warning did July test takers receive about this issue, where are some now learning about it, and what does the National Conference of Bar Examiners have to say? Find out at The Verge.

Big Law Firm Weil Offers Fellowships for Prospective Lawyers Who Defer Law School for a Year

It's not unheard-of for big law firms to offer fellowships for new JDs to work for a year or two at a nonprofit or on in-house pro bono matters. Much less usual, though, is a program at Weil, Gotshal & Manges: It offers prospective law students a chance to defer law school for one year to work (not as lawyers) for select public service organizations in exchange for a salary, health insurance, and a scholarship. Since launching the Weil Legal Innovators Program in 2019, the firm has spent \$1 million annually for an average of 10 pre-law school fellowships per year. Weil doesn't expect fellowship participants to join the firm after law school but instead considers the program part of its charitable giving and a way to differentiate itself from firms offering the more typical post-JD fellowships. Reuters has more information, including what kind of work the fellows do and what some say they have gained by delaying law school for this program.

2022 Fastcase 50 List Includes Two Who Work at Bars, Also, New Report Tracks Growth of Legal Tech Sector

On this year's Fastcase 50—an annual list of individuals the legal tech company considers the "smartest, most courageous innovators, techies, visionaries, and leaders"—are two people who work at bars: Karen Gould, executive director and chief operating officer at the Virginia State Bar, and Shawn Holahan, practice management counsel at the Louisiana State Bar Association. At LawSites, Bob Ambrogi (who was on the inaugural list in 2011) shares the full list that was announced last week. In other legal tech news, a recent report by Village Capital and the American Family Insurance Institute for Corporate and Social Impact says that over the past decade, the number of companies venturing into legal services has gone from a few startups to a booming sector. The report, "Justice Tech for All: How Technology Can Ethically Disrupt the U.S. Justice System," notes that in about the past 10 years, investors have put nearly \$80 million into more than 100 early-stage justice tech startups. Law360 identifies some of the key players and explores the legal regulatory landscape across the United States.

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