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Inaugural Trends Report Released by the ABA Center for Innovation

ABA Center for Innovation Releases Inaugural Innovation Trends Report

Last week, the ABA Center for Innovation released its first-ever Innovation Trends Report, focused on forward-thinking efforts within the ABA, advances in legal technology, and regulatory innovation. Among the topics highlighted in the report, which was mostly written by the center's board members, are: Rocket Lawyer's experience in Utah's regulatory sandbox; the Legal Education Police Practices Consortium created by deans of ABA-accredited law schools in 2020 in response to police killings and use of force in primarily Black communities; and the Model Diversity Survey, conducted by the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. [ABA Journal](#) shares more details and a link to the full report.

Oregon Chief Justice Fires All Members of State's Public Defense Commission After Urging Them to Fire Executive Director of Public Defense Office

In what some say is an "unprecedented" move, last week, the chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court fired all nine members of the state's Public Defense Services Commission and, one day later, announced she was appointing four new commissioners and reappointing five from the previous group. These actions occurred one week after a public hearing in which Chief Justice Martha Walters urged the commission to fire Steve Singer, the fairly new executive director of the Office of Public Defense Services, on the grounds that he was untrustworthy, combative, and slow to address the state's public defense crisis. The commission deadlocked on that decision, with a 4-4 vote and one member absent, and planned to meet in executive session to further discuss Singer's job performance. Others in the public defense community have defended Singer's work to reform a system they say has been broken for years. Learn more about this contentious issue at [OPB](#).

NALP Report: Increased Employment Rate for 2021 Law Grads, Legal Market at Highest Point Since 2007

According to a recent report from NALP (the National Association for Legal Placement), things are looking good for the nationwide law school class of 2021: As of mid-March 2022, 91.9% of graduates are employed, up 3.5% from last year's similarly timed report on the class of 2020. The legal job market is said to be at its highest point since right before the Great Recession of 2008. Among the graduates whose employment status was known, 78.2% were in jobs requiring bar passage, and another 10.6% were in jobs where a law degree is an advantage. What are some other key findings, and what predictions does NALP make for future law school classes? Find out at [2Civility](#).

Regulatory Change: A Look Back at Key Players, Talking Points in a Decades-Long Debate

When it comes to debates over regulatory changes (such as allowing nonlawyers to deliver some legal services or to share fees with lawyers), people on either side say they have public interest at heart—and each side questions the other's motivations. While the discussion seems to have intensified over the past couple of years, it's not a brand-new

topic. In addition to the 2022 ABA resolution affirming that fee-sharing is against core principles and its 2020 resolution encouraging regulatory innovation to increase access to justice, there was also significant ABA discourse on various aspects of regulatory change in 1999, 2000, and 2012. [ABA Journal](#) takes a deep dive into this decades-long debate and the various arguments people raise when grappling over how to serve the public efficiently and responsibly.



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