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Legislature Ends the State Bar of California's Innovation Efforts

California Assembly Votes 59-0 to Halt State Bar of California's Efforts to Explore Regulatory Sandbox, Licensed Paraprofessional Program

Last week, the California Assembly unanimously voted to concur in state Senate amendments to the State Bar of California's licensing fee bill, prohibiting the bar from advancing its initiatives to study establishing a regulatory sandbox or a licensing program for paraprofessionals to deliver limited legal services. The bill, as amended, would require the bar to report to lawmakers by January 15, 2023, the total spent since 2018 on exploring either of these ideas. During the floor vote, Assemblymember and Judiciary Committee Chair Mark Stone (D) said the amendments "clarify the role of the bar and [push] to ensure that they meet their obligation for public protection, especially around discipline of attorneys." The Senate added an urgency statute so the legislation would take effect immediately; Gov. Gavin Newsom has until September 30 to either sign or veto the bill and has indicated that he will not veto it. Learn more at [Bloomberg Law](#) and [Reuters](#).

ABA President Deborah Enix-Ross: Lawyers, Law Students Can Help Ensure Free, Fair Elections by Serving as Poll Workers

As the November 2022 elections draw nearer, the ABA is once again partnering with the National Association of Secretaries of State and the National Association of State Election Directors for the Poll Worker Esq. initiative, which encourages lawyers, law students and other legal professionals to get involved in the electoral process. "We're calling on lawyers and law students to step up this November to serve as poll workers," said ABA President Deborah Enix-Ross in a press release. "Every day, lawyers work to protect the rule of law and the Constitution, so it makes sense that they would be essential for us to have a free and fair election." [ABA Journal](#) has more details, including the tasks that may be involved, the potential to earn CLE credit, and how volunteers can sign up.

Number of Applicants for Entry-Level Law Professor Positions Hits All-Time Low

The number of people applying for entry-level, tenure track professor positions at U.S. law schools has dropped by 59% since 2010 and is now at an all-time low, according to data compiled by Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law Vice Dean Sarah Lawsky. Why? It could be a combination of factors, say both Lawsky and Brian Leiter, a law professor at University of Chicago: Many law schools now demand credentials that take years to acquire, and more information about what it takes to get hired is readily available, which has decreased the number of casual applicants. Just how low is this number currently, and what else do Lawsky and Leiter have to say? Find out at [Reuters](#).

Are Your Volunteers Burned Out? 5 Ways to Help Renew Their Energy

Burnout has been getting a lot of attention lately, as a reason why employees become cynical, checked out, or unable to give their all. But burnout isn't just a phenomenon of the

workplace—volunteers can experience it, too. Adding to the problem is that volunteering is already in decline in terms of numbers: In a recent Gallup poll, 56% of respondents said they volunteered in 2021, compared with 64% in 2017. Keeping volunteers engaged may take a combination of strategies, including showing volunteers how their work advances the mission, saying what's in it for them, expressing appreciation, adding opportunities for microvolunteering, and offering flexible assignments for volunteers with unconventional schedules. At [Associations Now](#), Senior Editor Ernie Smith explains how all of these can help your organization prevent or recover from an energy crisis.

Cornerstones of Democracy: Seeking Examples of Programming That Foster Civil Discourse in Our Communities

In a time of deep division, escalating distrust in our democratic institutions and increasing incivility in public discourse, ABA President Deborah Enix-Ross recently noted, "The legal community has the resources and ability to meet the challenges that confront the nation." We know that you've been talking about this for some time, and some of you may already be putting the [Cornerstones of Democracy Conversation Guide](#) into real-world practice. Many bar organizations have long-running programs, while others have new ideas and initiatives. The ABA Division for Bar Services would like to share and elevate these programs on a new website as we collectively tackle these challenges to democracy. This site will especially highlight projects that are fostering civil dialogue on divisive topics within communities. (One such example is the [Cleveland Metropolitan Bar's "Hot Talks" series](#).) We invite you to spotlight your past, ongoing, and future Cornerstones of Democracy-related programming by taking a couple of minutes to [share](#) some of the basic details of your initiatives. Please fill out multiple forms if you have multiple projects. Any queries should be directed to [Rachel Ellett](#), manager of research and analytics in Bar Services.



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