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Issue 316 | September 28

**New Tuition Assistance Program at Stanford Law** 

## New Nonprofit Partners With Stanford Law School to Give \$170,000 Toward Tuition, in Exchange for 10% of Income for 12 Years After Graduation

With law school tuition rising nationwide and the issue of student loan debt making headlines, Stanford Law School is piloting a way to help its first- and second-year students pay for their education. Via a partnership between the school and a new nonprofit called the Flywheel Fund for Career Choice, participating students will receive up to \$170,000 up front toward tuition and will pay 10% of their income to Flywheel for the next 12 years after they graduate. Participants will not be eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program; however, unlike with that federal program, they will not be limited in their career choices. Stanford Law will fully cover repayment for Flywheel pilot participants earning less than \$100,000 and will subsidize payments for those earning between \$100,000 and \$115,000. An income cap will ensure that even the highest paid participants will pay no more than \$1,875 per month. How many students will be in the pilot, and why does Stanford think this is a good investment for its own law school and perhaps for others? Find out at Reuters.

## British Columbia Considers a Single Regulator for Lawyers, Notaries, Paralegals, and Legal Services Delivery Committee in Florida Works Toward December 30 Deadline

Should lawyers, notaries, and paralegals be regulated by a single body rather than separately for each profession? The government of British Columbia, Canada, thinks so: In an intention paper, the Ministry of the Attorney General wrote that streamlining regulation in this way would help ensure that there's a "governance framework that prioritizes the public interest over the interests of the professionals it regulates." The Canadian Bar Association BC Branch generally supports this idea as a way to foster better coordination among legal professionals but disagrees that having a single regulator would significantly improve access to justice. Instead, it said in a statement, this goal would be better achieved through "investments in family law legal aid, digital transformation of the courts and tribunals, and public legal education to prevent disputes and increase self-directed resolutions." Canadian Lawyer Magazine has more information, including what some other legal professional organizations think of this idea, whether self-regulation is included in the plan, and the next steps in the review process for this proposal. In other news regarding regulation and access to justice, Florida Bar President Gary Lesser urged his state's Special Committee on Greater Public Access to Legal Services to consider practical solutions and bold proposals. This committee—made up of bar leaders, legal aid representatives, and one of the two public members of the bar's Board of Governors—has a December 30 deadline to recommend ways to improve the delivery of legal services in Florida, while also "assuring that lawyers play a proper and prominent role." This committee was formed by the state Supreme Court in March 2022, after the court announced it would not adopt most of the recommendations of its Special Committee to Improve the Delivery of Legal Services. Florida Bar News has more details about the current committee's work, how it differs from the previous committee's proposals, and specific ideas Lesser hopes the group will consider.

## Australian Legal Document and Contract Management Startup Lawpath Launches in United States With Investment From LegalZoom

Lawpath, the leading legal document and contract management platform for small businesses in Australia, has now launched in the United States—and the similar company LegalZoom is a major investor. Users in the United States can create, manage and electronically sign legal documents using Lawpath's contract management system; the platform's library includes documents such as nondisclosure agreements, employment agreements, lease agreements, and privacy policies. The U.S. launch by the eight-year-old company also includes legal workflow software and an automated recommendation engine that helps businesses set up the legal documents needed for specific purposes, such as hiring an employee or recovering a debt. Lawpath features not available here yet but possibly rolling out later include business set-up software and on-demand lawyer and accounting plans. Learn more at LawSites.

## New ABA Report Looks at How Profession Was Reshaped by COVID-19, Where It's Headed Now

The ABA recently released the results of a nationwide survey of approximately 2,000 ABA members, *Where Does the Legal Profession Go from Here?*. The report provides a snapshot of how the legal profession has been changed by the COVID-19 pandemic and where it is heading in the future. Highlighted is valuable data on remote and hybrid work; lawyer mobility; mental health and wellness; workplace culture; diversity, equity and inclusion; and virtual court proceedings. The report also provides data-based best practices for lawyers and legal employers, and data on resources lawyers most need from bar associations at this time. Visit Practice Forward for tools and resources to help legal professionals move their practice forward as we transition to a new normal.



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