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Newly Released Stanford Study Looks at Impact of Legal Regulatory Reform

New Study From Stanford Law: Regulatory Reform Unlikely to Cause Consumer Harm, UPL Reform Especially Helpful in Reaching Lower Income Individuals

As Utah, Arizona and other states explore reforms in how legal services are delivered and regulated, many people have been concerned about whether these changes serve the public well, whether they help increase access to legal services among lower income consumers in particular, and whether the reforms diminish the role of lawyers. A study published last week by Stanford Law School sheds some light on these and other issues; among the five insights identified by the study's authors are: current reform efforts do not appear to pose a substantial risk of consumer harm; reform to regulation of unauthorized practice of law is particularly important in expanding access for lower income consumers; and lawyers play a central a role in developing and delivering innovative legal services. What two questions did the study's authors specifically set out to answer, how did they conduct their research, and what differences did they discern between the current models in Utah and Arizona? Find out—and access the full report—at [LawSites](#).

After So Many Virtual Events, In-Person Conferences Are Energizing, Engaging, and Exhausting

At the height of the pandemic, virtual platforms allowed conferences to continue—not as usual, but in a way that was significantly better than not meeting at all. In fact, many found virtual conferences and workshops to be more convenient and efficient because they don't require travel or other disruption of everyday life. Wendi Weiner, an attorney, career expert, and founder of an executive resume writing service, noticed that the shift toward virtual events and other changes demanded by COVID seemingly transformed her "into an introvert who now enjoyed that virtual digital setting." When she recently attended her first in-person conference in three years, she realized what she had been missing in terms of full engagement with the content being presented and with other attendees. She also remembered just how exhausting a multi-day in-person event can be. Her reflections at [Above the Law](#) will likely resonate with anyone who has recently attended their first in-person conference in a long time.

Joining Others, Two Law Schools in Virginia and California Change Names Because of Troubling Details About Early Donor, Founder

At the end of last month, two law schools became the most recent to change their names because of troubling details about early donors, founders, or other historical figures. The board of trustees at the current T.C. Williams School of Law in Richmond, Va., unanimously voted to change the school's name to the University of Richmond School of Law; recently uncovered documents and records indicate that Williams, an early donor, owned and managed slaves both in his tobacco companies and at home. On the same day as this vote, California Gov. Gavin Newsome signed a bill to rename the University of California Hastings College of the Law; it will become the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. Serranus Hastings, a former state Supreme Court justice who founded the school, orchestrated the killings of Native Americans who lived on land he had purchased.

[Reuters](#) has more details about these most recent name changes and about other law schools across the country that have removed names from buildings or from the school itself for similar reasons.

In an Unusual Move, Conference of Chief Justices Files Amicus Brief in U.S. Supreme Court Case About Federal Election Rules

In what some say is a highly unusual move, the Conference of Chief Justices filed an amicus brief in a U.S. Supreme Court case that could reshape how federal elections are conducted. The court will soon hear *Moore v. Harper*, which hinges on an argument that state legislatures may set federal election rules unconstrained by state constitutions. Under this argument—sometimes called the independent state legislature theory—state lawmakers would have independent authority to set election rules, not subject to review by state courts. The case concerns a congressional voting map drawn by the North Carolina Legislature; it favored Republicans and was rejected as a partisan gerrymander. The conference typically does not file amicus briefs, especially in cases that are controversial and ideologically charged; its brief noted that the U.S. Constitution "does not oust state courts from their traditional role in reviewing election laws under state constitutions." Learn more at [The New York Times](#).

Hurricane Ian: Recovery Efforts Under Way, More News Soon About How Lawyers Can Help

Many bar leaders have reached out to ask how they can help with the Hurricane Ian recovery effort. Right now, in the most affected areas like Lee County, basic needs are being addressed by disaster recovery organizations such as the American Red Cross. You can donate to a coalition of organizations serving the area [here](#). The Florida Bar will be running several programs for residents (the FEMA Disaster Hotline, Free Legal Answers) and is also working to connect lawyers willing to help with lawyers in need. They'll have more to share in the coming days and weeks as power returns and the water recedes. We'll keep you posted on the developments in case you'd like to contribute to this effort.



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