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Fastcase and vLex Announce Merger

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vLex and Fastcase announced a merger last week that potentially creates the world's largest subscriber base of lawyers and law firms. The combined entity will be called vLex Group and will be led by Lluís Faus as global CEO. The two founders of Fastcase, CEO Ed Walters and President Phil Rosenthal, who started their company in 1999, will remain with the company in global executive roles and take seats on the merged company's board. Fastcase CEO Ed Walters said that the two companies' products will retain their branding, with vLex as the primary brand outside the U.S. and Fastcase, Docket Alarm and NextChapter continuing within the U.S. [Learn more from Bob Ambrogi's interview with Ed Walters](#), including how this merger may impact Fastcase's relationships with state and local bar associations.

Reduced CLE Requirements Recommended by Georgia Task Force

Georgia's Lawyer Competency Task Force has submitted its final report to the Supreme Court of Georgia. The task force was charged with evaluating the current requirements for admission to practice law in Georgia and exploring alternatives to the existing regulatory framework. The task force also was instructed to evaluate mechanisms and alternatives for ensuring the competency of experienced lawyers, including current Continuing Legal Education requirements. The report suggests reducing the amount of mandatory CLE required for Georgia attorneys and restricting program requirements to ethics and area of practice. The report also recommends that third-year law students should again be permitted to sit for the bar examination during their last semester of study but not be admitted to practice until after graduation. The full report is available [here](#).

Is There a COVID Effect on Bar Exam Results?

Results from the February bar exam saw a decrease of 1.5 points in the national mean scaled score of the multiple choice section versus the previous year. Rosemary Reshetar, the National Conference of Bar Examiners' director of assessment and research, attributes some of this decline to lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its impact on education and learning outcomes. [This article in the ABA Journal](#) also discusses the typical profile of those who sit for the February bar exam.

Revenue Challenges at Professional Associations

Are professional associations employing effective strategies to reach their revenue goals? The Association Business Development Landscape Report, released last month by Professionals for Association Revenue (PAR), reports that less than half of association executives said they will meet their budget targets for membership (48 percent) and non-dues meeting sponsorship (48 percent). Even fewer said they'll meet targets for attendee registration (41 percent) and exhibits (39 percent). PAR attributes these struggles to the traditionally siloed approach that associations take to membership growth, sponsorship and other sources of revenue. [Associations Now](#) has the details on what a strategic solution to revenue growth may look like, and the role that data gathering and technology play in these efforts.



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