Fastcase to Casemaker: See You in Court

Fastcase and Casemaker. Casemaker and Fastcase. For years, those two providers of online legal research have been in close competition for bar associations’ member benefit dollars. Now, they’re squaring off not in the marketplace but in district court. Fastcase is suing Casemaker in response to a written demand that Fastcase remove from its research collection the Georgia Administrative Rules and Regulations. What’s at stake, and what are the possible implications for legal publishing as a whole? Here’s Robert Ambrogi’s take.

The Heart of the Matter: Can Emotion Drive Member Engagement?

When it comes to membership, “engagement” has become a watchword in recent years. But how do you measure it? By what the member thinks? Or does? If you stop there, then you’re missing another critical component, says Jeffrey Cufaude: how members feel. Matters of the member heart may be harder to measure, Cufaude writes at his Idea Architects blog, but asking one simple question can yield some surprising—and very useful—insights.

Stanford Law Creates New Lab Aimed at More Access, Less Legalese

When we talk about whether the average person can access legal services and the law, we usually mean whether they can find the help they need at a price they can afford. That’s important, but it’s not the whole story, according to Stanford University Law School: Access also depends on language and communication. Are signs in the courtroom written as clearly as they could be? Could simple technology help keep people informed as they move through the legal system? Stanford’s new Legal Design Lab aims to train law students in “human-centered legal design” and to increase access in every sense of the word.

San Francisco Bar and School District Pilot Program to Ease Conflict Via ADR

For parents of children with learning differences and special needs, few things have higher stakes—and more potential for conflict—than whether their children’s needs are being appropriately met at school. What better place, then, for mediation and alternative dispute resolution? The Bar Association of San Francisco’s Mediation Services Program and the San Francisco Unified School District are partnering to bring ADR into schools to improve communication and understanding among parents, teachers, and the school district. The bar’s Legal by the Bay blog has all the details.