Issue 11, April 5, 2016

**Evenly Split Supreme Court Affirms *Friedrichs v. CTA* decision**

In a 4-4 split last week, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the Ninth Circuit’s ruling in favor of the California teachers’ union in *Friedrichs v. CTA*. The case has been closely watched by other public-sector unions and by bar associations because it addresses whether mandatory fees can be used to subsidize political activity that an individual within a profession might find objectionable. The Atlantic addresses what went into that decision – and whether the death of Justice Antonin Scalia was a factor.

**Casemaker CEO: Dispute with Fastcase Strictly a Matter of Licensing**

Is the current dispute – and lawsuit – between Fastcase and Casemaker about whether state laws can be considered copyrighted material? Or is it strictly a matter of licensing? As in most lawsuits, it depends who you ask. At Robert Ambrogi’s Law Sites blog, Casemaker’s CEO says the company has never claimed state laws can be copyrighted, and that the state of Georgia gave it the exclusive right to license its Administrative Rules and Regulations in an electronic format. What’s the latest in the battle between these two legal research giants?

**Is Law School Worth it? Recent Grads Say ‘No’, Survey Finds**

When asked if they would choose law school again if they could go back in time, less than half of respondents in a recent survey “strongly agreed” that they would, according to a post by the Wall Street Journal – and recent grads were the least likely to say they’d made a good choice. Perhaps not surprisingly, the Gallup survey of more than 7,000 law school alumni from seven schools in the Southeast found many big differences between recent law grads and those from decades past. What are those differences, and what can they tell us about law school and the profession?

**Can You Handle the Truth about the Future of Associations? How about 4 of Them?**

Innovation is nothing new, says association expert Deirdre Reid. That is, the concept has been discussed so much in recent years that you may be tuning it out. But the keynote speaker at this month’s digitalNow conference makes a compelling link between innovation and an association’s survival, Reid believes. In this post, Reid identifies four truths about the future and what it will require of associations – and asks you to think about how you and your association are handling those truths.