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5 Great Membership Strategies for Associations in Professions that Are Changing

How can bar associations adapt and thrive when the legal profession is rapidly and dramatically changing all around them? Perhaps it would help to take a step outside of the bar world and look at what's going on in some other professions — and related associations — that are also in flux. A post by Joe Rominiacki at [Associations Now](#) outlines five membership-focused ideas for professional associations in times of change. Two examples that may strike a chord: "Create new entry points to membership or engagement" and "Reflect on whether your mission is to serve people or a profession."



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New Website Offers State-by-State Snapshot of Access to Justice

How many civil legal aid attorneys are there for every 10,000 poor people in the United States? Less than one. That sobering statistic comes from new data and a related website that launched last week to rank the 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in terms of how well they use certain best practices to ensure access to justice. At his [Law Sites blog](#), Robert Ambrogi offers his take on Justice Index 2016, compiled by the National Center for Access to Justice at Cardozo Law School. How did your state measure up?

Will Feedback from General Counsels Drive Law Firms to Improve?

The legal system will never be perfect, and the results of working with one lawyer as opposed to another will always be something of a gamble. But a new "loose consortium" of general counsels just might help move the profession toward being "more perfect." How? By pooling their resources to vet lawyers and share feedback, creating a climate in which law firms know they are being evaluated and that this information will be shared. At [3 Geeks and a Law Blog](#), D. Casey Flaherty explains that, in his view, big improvements are often driven by clients — especially those who are vocal.

Let's Talk 'Talk': 6 Habits of Great Conversationalists

Or maybe we should talk about listening: After all, says Stephanie Voza at [Fast Company](#), the best conversationalists listen more than they talk. What are the other five habits? For the most part, they involve knowing how to keep a conversation alive and lively, more than knowing exactly what to say. If you've ever struggled with small talk (who hasn't?) or a great conversation that comes to a dead end, then here are some strategies to help you keep the ball in the air during your next game of verbal "catch."

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