

Issue 28, August 2, 2016

New Study Clarifies What New Lawyers Need to Know, What Can Wait

When considering what new lawyers need to know, it might be tempting to think in terms of hard skills like how to write a brief or take a deposition. But a new study from the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System suggests that those can be learned on the job, and that what new lawyers need right away are “whole lawyer” character traits that are similar to bedside manner in a doctor. What are the top 10 skills that emerged in the survey ... and what percentage of respondents believe that most new lawyers are ready for practice? [ABA Journal](#) takes a closer look.

Meet Alicia E. Hernandez, Incoming Executive Director of the Dallas Bar Association

When seeking its next executive director, the Dallas Bar Association looked within and selected Alicia E. Hernandez, a 15-year DBA employee who is currently director of the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program. Hernandez will assume her new role on January 1, 2017, following the retirement of Cathy Maher after 38 years with the bar. The [DBA's website](#) shares more details about its new ED and why the bar is excited for the future.

Why ‘Running It by Legal’ Doesn’t Have to Be a Buzzkill

Here’s a common scenario at many companies: A team gets together to create a bold new product or service ... and then “legal” comes in and tells them why it can’t happen. The innovation team grumbles about how lawyers hate anything new and cool, and then the whole cycle repeats when it’s time to create again. It doesn’t have to be that way, says Erica Dhawan at [Harvard Business Review](#). How can putting a lawyer on the innovation team help ensure that the next great idea is one that has wings?

Are You Up? Are You Down? Membership Trends in a Chaotic Year

So far, 2016 has been turbulent, to say the least. But despite all the chaos — or in some ways, maybe because of it — things are looking up for a lot of associations, according to Marketing General Incorporated’s newly released 2016 Membership Marketing Benchmarking Report. What are some associations doing well (Hint: There’s some technology involved), and why is the presidential election driving some people to join? Joe Rominecki digs into the report and shares his own observations at [Associations Now](#).

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