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Not Just 'Is the Budget Balanced?': What Else Should You Ask?

Sure, it's important not to run the bar association into the red. But a board's fiduciary responsibility goes far deeper than staying out of debt, preventing mismanagement of funds, or avoiding trouble with the IRS. Also critically important, says Debra Beck at her [Laramie Board Learning Project blog](#), is that the board ask, "Does the budget reflect our priorities?" Beck offers 8 bullet points that can help your board stretch beyond just making sure the budget is balanced.



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Arkansas Bar Association Files Lawsuit to Remove Med Mal Amendment from Ballot

"The Lawsuit Reform Amendment of 2016: An Amendment to Limit Attorney Contingency Fees and Non-Economic Damages in Medical Lawsuits" ... To most voters, would this ballot title sound like something that could negatively affect them, or like a sensible measure to curb supposedly greedy lawyers? The Arkansas Bar Association believes the name of the proposed amendment is intentionally misleading — and it has filed a lawsuit asking the state Supreme Court to remove Issue 4, as currently worded, from the November ballot. [ArkansasMatters.com](#) has all the details on the latest skirmish over medical malpractice caps.

First-Ever ABA Survey Takes Comprehensive Look at Lawyer Incubator Programs

It's likely that over the past several years, you've heard about incubator programs, which are often sponsored by organizations as a way to help new lawyers launch their careers and close the justice gap. Now, for the first time, the ABA Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services has gathered data that give a comprehensive view of where those programs are and how they work. Among the programs that responded to the survey, three-fourths have been created since 2014, according to "[2016 Comprehensive Survey of Lawyer Incubators](#)". What else did the study find?

Wave of Lawyer Retirements Comes at a Cost ... to Law Firms

Much has been written about the state of baby boomers' retirement savings and whether they can really afford to stop working. But the expected wave of partner retirements in the next five to 10 years will likely hit law firms' bottom line, too, says [ABA Journal](#). Recent survey results suggest that 16 percent of Big Law partners will retire in the next five years, and 38 percent in the next decade — which means long-standing client relationships will be at risk. What are some of the other factors that may exacerbate the pain that many firms will feel?

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