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Let's Kill the Non-Lawyers ... the Term, That Is

Particularly as anxiety increases over perceived incursions by people — and technologies — with a degree other than JD, “non-lawyers” has become an easy shorthand term. But is it really useful ... or appropriate? After all, writes Matt Homann at [The \[Non\]Billable Hour](#), in a typical doctor’s visit, you are served by a number of people other than your doctor - such as a nurse, a physician’s assistant, an office manager, and a billing clerk —and your doctor doesn’t refer to those medical professionals as “non-doctors.” Why is this such a big deal? And if not “non-lawyers,” then what?

Leaders: Take Ownership ... but Realize That It’s Temporary

To be an effective board member or other leader takes a careful balancing of two different mindsets: that you are an owner of the responsibilities and decisions that occur during your term, and that this ownership is temporary and part of a much longer continuum. That’s according to Jeffrey Cufaude; at his [Idea Architects blog](#), he shares the story of how an overstuffed scrapbook helped him learn this lesson while he was still in high school.

Do Decreases in Exam Takers Signal Trouble for Rural Practice?

Even taking into account the well-known programs aimed at placing new lawyers in underserved areas, Joe Patrice at [Above the Law](#) believes that “the legal community remains mostly oblivious to the legal challenges of rural folks.” Because of the challenges affecting the legal profession as a whole, will “the simple country lawyer” soon fade into memory? Patrice points to three states where decreases in the number of bar exam takers may signal a worrisome decline in rural practice.

Recent Flood Closes Court in Baton Rouge for Lack of a Critical Resource

Everyone remembers the damage that Hurricane Katrina caused in Louisiana and other Gulf states. But it was a recent, nameless storm — referred to simply as “the flood of 2016” — that closed the 19th Judicial Court in Baton Rouge for a record six workdays. The court building never did take on water, according to Joe Gyan Jr. of [The Advocate](#). So, what was the somewhat surprising reason for the shutdown ... and what has been the long-term effect on the cases that were on the docket?

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