

Talk Less. Smile More.

Issue 49, January 17th, 2017

## Are You a 'Long Talker?' Try the 15% Rule for Shorter, Better Speeches

Whether you're giving a speech or being interviewed on TV or radio, you definitely don't want someone to give you the "time's almost up" signal just as you're getting to what you really wanted to say. That's where "the 15 percent rule" comes in. What is it, and how does it help prominent public speakers trim some filler and engage with audiences better? At [ragan.com](http://ragan.com), Denise Graveline explains the rule and how it can help you, too.



Like us  
on  
Facebook



Follow  
DBS on  
Twitter

## A Wakeup Call: NALP Releases Dismal Report on Diversity in Law

Earlier this month, NALP (the National Association for Law Placement) released its 2016 Report on Diversity ... and it doesn't look good. For example, "the overall percentage of women associates has decreased more often than not since 2009, and the percentage of Black/African-American associates has declined every year since 2009, except for the small increase in 2016." At [Above the Law](http://Above the Law), Renwei Chung takes a hard look at the report, why diversity efforts have "flatlined" even after the economy improved, and what every stakeholder needs to do now.

## Michigan Judge Offers Treatment Program for Some Veterans Charged with Nonviolent Felonies

If a veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder or another condition related to his or her military service is charged with a nonviolent felony, what should happen next? For Oakland County (Mich.) Circuit Court Judge Nanci Grant, the answer is that he or she should be offered a treatment program ... and a thank-you for his or her service. Why did the judge initiate this program, and how does it work? Ronelle Grier at [DetroitJewishNews](http://DetroitJewishNews) offers a closer view of this alternative justice model.

## Go Thank a 2016 Law Grad ... Together, They Performed 2.2 Million Pro Bono Hours Last Year

Law school is a notoriously busy and stressful time, but that didn't stop the law class of 2016 from performing 2.2 million hours of pro bono service, valued at \$52 million — and possibly double that, in terms of both money and time. The survey by the Association of American Law Schools (the first-ever attempt to quantify pro bono hours among law students nationwide) represents about 45 percent of the total law student population, explains Karen Sloan at [law.com](http://law.com). What do these figures say about law students, and about law schools' value to a community?

[Read the latest issue of Bar Leader Magazine](#)

Your e-mail address will only be used within the ABA. We do not sell or rent e-mail addresses.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#)

American Bar Association | 321 N Clark, Chicago, IL 60654-7598 | 800-285-2221 | 312-988-5356