

An Evidence-based Approach to Access to Justice

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When It Comes to Access to Justice, Do Lawyers Need to Take a Hard Look at Evidence?

It seems self-evident that full representation by a lawyer will necessarily lead to the best outcome for any client. But, as with so many things that seem self-evident, the actual evidence may not bear that out. Now, for the first time, a lab at Harvard Law School is using randomized control trials – the same kind of testing that new medications have been subjected to for the past several decades – to ascertain what really works best in various situations involving access to justice. At [Above the Law](#), Robert Ambrogi takes a look at some of the findings and how they could shake things up.

State Bar of Texas Incubator Now up and Running

Among the newest legal incubators is the Texas Opportunity and Justice Incubator, through the State Bar of Texas. TOJI launched last month, and its first 10 lawyers – not all of whom are newly minted JDs – have just emerged from a three-week boot camp in which they learned the ins and outs of running a solo practice. What did they learn, how will TOJI operate, and how could this incubator help close the access-to-justice gap? [Texas Lawyer](#) has all the details.

News from LSC: Two States Announced for Pilot of Legal Portals

Speaking of access to justice, Legal Services Corporation made headlines last week with news far different from that of recent weeks: Two states have been selected as partners for a pilot program to develop online, statewide portals that will direct people to civil legal assistance. The portals are a joint effort among, LSC, Microsoft, and Pro Bono Net; how will the portals work, which two states were chosen for the pilot, and why were they selected? Find out via press release from [Pro Bono Net](#).

[PODCAST] New Book Offers a Challenging Take on Unconscious Bias ... and the Golden Rule?

It's something that many of us learned as children and it pops up a lot, in various forms: that age-old idea that we should always treat others how we would like them to treat us. It's the Golden Rule – and it can cause a lot of problems. Big, serious, history-changing problems. That's just one startling insight from a new book on unconscious bias and how not being aware of your own "filters" and someone else's can really trip you up. What is the Platinum Rule, and how is it better? Listen to, or read the transcript from, this podcast of a [Wharton School](#) interview with author Sara Taylor.

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