State Bar of California Spins off Its Voluntary Sections, Moves to All-Appointed Governing Body

The State Bar of California is still on a path of profound change: It recently spun off all 16 of its voluntary sections, and its board of trustees will transition to a governing body entirely appointed by the California Supreme Court, the legislature, and the governor. Previously, members had elected some of the trustees. The sections, which together will now be their own nonprofit, began to consider such a split last year, in part because of a new ban on spending on alcohol and contracting with resort-style venues for events. What is the aim of these reforms? and what do they have to do with the North Carolina "teeth whitening" case? ABA Journal has more details.

Communicators, Do You Have a Crisis Plan? You Need One ASAP

Sure, there's always another bar journal to get out, another media call to return, or any of the countless other everyday tasks related to communications. But, says Robby Brumberg at ragan.com, communicators are "first responders"—so, it's critically important that you make the time to create or refresh your bar’s communications crisis plan. Brumberg offers four simple steps that can help you draft such a plan, or make your existing one even better. Don't delay!

New from the Chicago Bar Association: Limited Scope Referral Panel

With so many resources online, some people only need (or can afford) help with the especially complicated aspects of a legal matter—and many lawyers are happy to pick up new clients on this piecemeal basis. To help match clients with lawyers and close a gap in which nearly two-thirds of Illinois civil defendants are entirely unrepresented (90 percent for some types of cases), the Chicago Bar Association has started a Limited Scope Referral Panel and is now accepting lawyers' applications. What areas of law will the new panel focus on, and how will this resource be publicized? Learn more via a Chicago Bar Foundation blog post.

Get Strategic with the Division for Bar Services

Now's the time to grapple with the changing membership landscape. Yesterday's business model likely won't cut it in today's environment. Set aside time to talk with your board about the road ahead and develop a plan of action. Division for Bar Services facilitators have openings next April through July, and we're offering special pricing for bars with budgets of $750,000 or smaller. Spots are limited, so contact us now to discuss the process and reserve your dates.
Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services

Read the latest issue of Bar Leader Magazine