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[5 Years of Project Rural Practice](#)

## [Almost Five Years in, South Dakota's Project Rural Practice Appears to Be a Rousing Success](#)

When Project Rural Practice began in South Dakota almost five years ago, there was little question that it was vitally needed, as new lawyers struggled to find jobs and as many people in the state's less populated areas had no legal representation at all. The question was, how many of the first group of 16 lawyers would stay for the five years required to receive the full incentive? The answer: all but one—and many say they have no plans to leave once those five years are up. [The Dickinson Press](#) looks at why this joint effort by the State Bar of South Dakota and the Unified Judicial System has been so successful, and at how close it is to fulfilling the ultimate goal of having at least one lawyer in all 48 counties.

## [A Work in Progress: State Bar of Texas Revising Procedures for Presidential Candidates](#)

In recognition of the way many bar presidential campaigns actually go—and the fact that some previous rules may have been overly restrictive or even unconstitutional—the State Bar of Texas is revising its guidelines regarding "petition candidates" (as opposed to those nominated by a committee). For example, current President-Elect Joe Longley campaigned right up until the end of the voting period, despite a guideline that said he should stop earlier; that rule has now been suspended. The changes are part of an overall trend toward more petition candidates and more vigorous campaigning—but could the revisions give those candidates an unfair advantage over the ones selected by the nominating committee? Learn more about the bar's efforts to ensure a realistic and fair election process at [law.com](#).

## [Can the Most Important Lawyering Skills Ever Really Be Tested?](#)

More than two decades after the MacCrate Report, which identified 10 fundamental lawyering skills, state bars, courts, and the academy are still tussling over how to teach those skills—and how to test them. Some significant efforts have been made, but they might not be enough, according to a post at [Above the Law](#); for example, Shannon Achimalbe writes, how can a bar exam test negotiation skills, which might actually be more important than the ability to digest and analyze a legal problem within 30 to 60 minutes? And given all the changes in recent years, would it be better to set aside the MacCrate Report and come up with something new?

## [Call for Volunteers: Hurricane Survivors Need Legal Help](#)

If you're a lawyer yourself or you have members who wish to provide volunteer legal service to survivors of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, a [disaster relief page](#) from the ABA Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness has all the information you need. Among the resources for potential volunteers are links to free CLE webinars and to more details about each hurricane and about what type of legal assistance is needed in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, Georgia, and Texas.



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