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Helping our Members Embrace Technology

Technology Competence and How to Achieve It: Two New Initiatives

More and more states are adopting the duty of technology competence, and CLE programs are helping lawyers understand what it requires of them. But what has been done to ensure that lawyers and law students can actually achieve and maintain this competence? Not enough, in many states, says Robert Ambrogi at [Above the Law](#). Ambrogi spotlights two new initiatives that could help: an online legal technology certificate program from Suffolk University Law School, and a new project from Michigan State University College of Law that will measure how well law schools are preparing students to practice in today's tech-focused world.

Legal Sector Sheds More Than 1,000 Jobs in October

In general, last month brought good economic news, with job gains and a slight decrease in the unemployment rate. But the legal services sector wasn't part of that upturn—instead, it lost 1,110 jobs in October. At [law.com](#), Scott Flaherty notes that the October figures—which are provisional and may be revised—follow reports of staff reductions at large law firms in the past few months. Where have some of those cuts occurred, and how do the October results fit within the overall trend in recent years?

States Split on ABA Model Rule Against Harassing or Discriminatory Conduct

New ABA Model Rule 8.4(g) prohibits harassing or discriminatory conduct not only in usual law practice but also at bar functions and other law-related social and business events. Is this an important statement against sexual harassment and other forms of harassment and discrimination—or an overstep that infringes on lawyers' First Amendment rights? Thus far, states appear to be divided: The Vermont Supreme Court adopted the rule, the South Carolina Supreme Court rejected it, and two state supreme courts solicited public comment. What do some proponents and opponents of the rule have to say about it, and is it likely that it will continue to face a rough road in the states? Find out at [ABA Journal](#).

Your Job Title: How Trendy Is It, and What Does It Mean?

Director of membership, or director of member engagement? Executive director, or chief executive officer? When it comes to bar association staff positions, what's in a name—and which job titles and descriptions are gaining steam? The November-December issue of [Bar Leader](#) looks at some trends within bars and the broader association world, and at what a change in job title might say about the changing nature of association work.



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