

Is this email not displaying correctly? [View In Browser](#)



Issue 90 | December 5

[Fewer Legal Consumers in the Marketplace?](#)

A Troubling Trend? More Lawyers Representing Corporations, Not Individuals

Much has been written about the fact that many consumers now represent themselves in civil cases because they find legal representation to be unaffordable. Indiana University law professor Bill Henderson says there's another, related trend to keep an eye on: a shift among lawyers and law firms toward representing corporations rather than individuals, for economic reasons. "No amount of tinkering at the edges is going to fix or reverse these trends," Henderson writes at his [Legal Evolution blog](#). "Instead, we need a series of fundamental redesigns." What figures does Henderson cite to illustrate these shifts—and what does he think is at stake?

State Bar of Texas Task Force to Evaluate Transparency of the Bar

As he promised during his campaign, Joe Longley, president-elect of the State Bar of Texas, has appointed a task force to look into whether the bar is as transparent as it should be. Longley, who will become president in June 2018, alleges that the bar sometimes does not give as much information as possible in response to an open records request—and that, in fact, Longley himself has made such requests in the past and had difficulty obtaining information. In a written statement, current president Tom Vick said the bar is committed to transparency and that he does not know of any instances in which it improperly withheld information. Read more at [Texas Lawyer](#).

(Note: This text has been edited to correct an error regarding Mark Ticer's title.)

Union Alleges Bad Faith by State Bar of California in Compensation Bargaining

The Service Employees International Union, which represents employees of the State Bar of California, has filed an unfair practice charge against the bar, alleging bad faith in recent bargaining over compensation. According to the charge, last December, the SEIU's proposal of 6 percent annual salary adjustments for union members as part of a three-year contract was rejected by the state bar because of a \$6.8 million structural deficit. The union alleges that the bar then withheld information that would either verify or refute its dire financial straits. The bar counters that the requested information was simply not available, and that three-year budgeting is not yet aligned with its strategic plan. [ABA Journal](#) has more details about this dispute and the likely next steps.

Registration Now Open for BLI 2018

Called by many participants "the best thing the ABA does," the ABA Bar Leadership Institute offers top-notch training for incoming bar leaders and bar executives alike. Registration for BLI 2018, to be held March 14-16 in Chicago, is now open. Don't miss out—[register today!](#)

[Like Us on Facebook](#)

[Follow DBS on Twitter](#)

[Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services](#)

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

{{AA_HTML Manual - Chicago Footer}}