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[New Dean of Irvine Law Breaks Barriers](#)

[New Irvine Law Dean L. Song Richardson Is the Only Woman of Color to Lead a Top 30 School](#)

L. Song Richardson became dean of the UC Irvine School of Law, effective January 1, making her the only woman of color to lead a U.S. News & World Report "Top 30" law school. Richardson had been at Irvine as a professor for three years (after practicing law in a variety of settings) and then as interim dean for a few months, and was enthusiastically endorsed by the school's founding dean, Erwin Chemerinsky. [Above the Law](#) has additional details about Richardson and her plans for the relatively new law school to "continue to redefine, reinvent, and reimagine the future of legal education."

[State Bar of New Mexico Names Richard B. Spinello as Executive Director](#)

In late December, the State Bar of New Mexico announced that it had named a new executive director for the bar association and foundation: Richard B. Spinello, who had been interim executive director since May. Spinello, who worked at the bar in a number of different roles over the past 17 years, succeeds Joe Conte, who retired earlier this year after 14 years as executive director. Learn more about Spinello at [Albuquerque Business First](#).

[Standing Committee Proposes Changes to ABA Model Rules on Lawyer Advertising](#)

The ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility has proposed several changes to the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct pertaining to lawyer advertising, to be discussed at a public forum at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Vancouver this February. The Standing Committee notes that, in part, the proposed changes are meant to "[s]trengthen and simplify the rules while adhering to constitutional limitations on restricting commercial speech, protecting the public, and permitting lawyers to use new technologies that can inform consumers accurately and efficiently about the availability of legal services." An [ABA news release](#) summarizes the proposed amendments and includes several links for more information.

[The Anti-Resolution: What Are You Not Going to Do This Year?](#)

It's a new year?did you make any resolutions? And if so, have you already broken them? That's par for the course, writes Stephanie Vozza at [Fast Company](#). In fact, one expert says January is just about the worst time to make grand promises?because it comes at the end of an exhausting, excessive season for many people. Better, Vozza says, is to think in terms of "anti-resolutions": What are you not going to do this year, and what can you let go of in order to make your life better? Need some help writing your anti-resolutions? Vozza offers three big ones that can "create energy and inspiration in your career."

[Early Bird Registration for the 2018 ABA Bar Leadership Institute Ends January 31](#)

Register NOW for the 2018 ABA Bar Leadership Institute, scheduled for March 14-16, 2018, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown. The BLI provides an excellent overview of bar association governance, communication and leadership, especially helpful in these changing times for membership organizations. Also, don't miss the opportunity to attend the pre-BLI Presidential Boot Camp focused on helping bar presidents hit the ground running on their first day in office. For more information about BLI registration and programming, visit the [BLI website](#).



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