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Is State Bar Membership Needed for Federal Court Cases?

California Petition Seeks Admission to District Court Without State Bar Membership

Is it "unnecessary" and "burdensome" to require active state bar membership in order to be admitted to a U.S. district court? That's the substance of a petition by 11 organizations and two individual lawyers, who say membership in the State Bar of California shouldn't be a requisite to file a case in the U.S. District Court of Northern California. The petitioners, many of which are nonprofit organizations, contend that because district courts generally deal with federal law, state bar membership isn't needed to prove competence. Who, exactly, is behind this petition, what do they suggest instead of bar membership?and could this set a precedent? Find out more at [National Law Review](#).

Proposed Amendments to ABA Model Rules on Lawyer Advertising: An Update

When asked, during a public forum at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Vancouver, whether proposed amendments to the Model Rules on lawyer advertising went too far, none of the approximately 65 people in the room raised a hand. When asked if the amendments, as currently drafted, should go farther in relaxing certain restrictions, most people did raise their hands. That's according to Jayne Reardon, executive director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. At [2Civility.org](#), Reardon recaps the lively forum and offers her own analysis of the proposed amendments.

Could 2018 See an Uptick in Law School Applications, LSAT Scores?

Is the multi-year decline in law school applications finally going to end? At least one law professor thinks so: Jerry Organ, a professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis (and the blogger behind [TaxProf Blog](#)). Based on data from the Law School Admission Council's Current Volume Report, Organ predicts that the 2018 law school applicant pool will be the largest since the 2011-12 admissions cycle?and that there may be a significant increase in applicants with LSAT scores of 165 or higher. What information, specifically, leads Organ to this conclusion? [ABA Journal](#) has all the details.

The Escambia Project Looks at Big Picture with 'One Stop Life Shop'

For many potential legal aid or pro bono clients, a law-related matter is often just one of many interconnected problems they need help with?which can necessitate a more holistic approach. That was the idea behind a recent "One Stop Life Shop" event conducted in Pensacola, Fla., by The Escambia Project. From financial planning to flu shots to legal help, the event at a community center brought together 25 organizations to provide information and services for area residents who needed assistance. Learn more about the event, and The Escambia Project, at the [Pensacola News Journal](#).



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