Wisconsin Supreme Court: No Split Budget for State Bar of Wisconsin

Last Thursday, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued its decision regarding a petition to split the State Bar of Wisconsin’s budget between mandatory and voluntary functions. The court rejected the petition, which means the bar will retain its current unified structure and its practice of satisfying any member objections to lobbying—the crux of the petition—by offering a dues rebate for activities that may fall outside of Keller boundaries. The petition was the most recent of more than 15 challenges over the past several decades by Madison attorney and past state bar president Steve Levine. The bar’s website has more details on the decision, the petition, and a recent change to the Keller rebate policy.

State Bar of South Dakota Names Andrew Fergel as New Executive Director

The State Bar of South Dakota Board of Bar Commissioners recently selected Andrew L. Fergel as the bar’s next executive director. Fergel is currently chief legal counsel and litigation supervisor for the South Dakota Department of Revenue. SBSD President Pamela Reiter described Fergel as an experienced lawyer and manager with an inclusive, collaborative management style. The bar commissioners cited Fergel’s fiscal knowledge and his years of experience as a lobbyist as factors that set him apart. Visit the bar’s website to learn more about Fergel and his vision as executive director.

Three New Startups Use Artificial Intelligence for Public Good

Maybe you think you’ve read about all the various startups that are using artificial intelligence to help close the gap in legal services. But have you heard of Paladin? Road to Status? HelpSelf Legal? In a nutshell, Paladin helps corporations aggregate and assign case work in their pro bono and corporate responsibility programs, Road to Status works much like Turbotax and helps people file immigration applications, and HelpSelf Legal automates the types of legal tasks that are disproportionately needed by people of low and moderate income. At law.com, find out more about how each one works and how it was developed.

Think You Know What Your Weaknesses Are? You Might Be ‘Fatally’ Wrong

Executive coaches Jack Zenger and Joseph Folkman quite often hear from their clients that they already know what their strengths and weaknesses are. And yet, when they administer 360-degree feedback surveys—in which the executive or other leader is evaluated by those he or she is leading—clients are often completely shocked by their low scores. Most of our unknown weaknesses, the two write at Harvard Business Review, are mild enough not to cause serious difficulty. But the real problem is that 30 percent of the leaders they’ve worked with have a “fatal flaw”?a weakness that's so serious, it can hinder career progress and the organization’s success. So, how can you uncover and work on the weaknesses you might have, and not even know about yet?
Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services

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