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Bar Passage Rate Increases

Some Good News About the 2017 JD Class: First-Time Bar Passage Rate Increases

It's not all doom and gloom for new law grads, according to [ABA Journal](#): The first-time bar passage rate for the class of 2017 was almost three percentage points higher than that of 2016, based on data from the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. For the class of 2017, the first-time bar passage rate was 77.2 percent, compared with 74.3 percent for 2016. Barry Currier, ABA managing director of accreditation and legal education, notes that the information released in late March is not a compliance report for the ABA bar passage standard but that it does provide helpful consumer information for prospective law students. What else does the report reveal about the state of legal education?

What 'Soft Skills' Matter Most in an ED or CEO?and How Can You Find Them?

"The association community is facing a crisis of leadership," warns Rhea Steele at [AssociationSuccess.org](#). The same retirement wave that the bar world has seen in recent years is also affecting other types of associations. Are there enough up-and-coming association professionals who are ready to step into the ED/CEO role in these challenging times?and are boards missing some important dimensions in the hiring process? Leadership experience and industry knowledge matter, Steele writes, but so does emotional intelligence. She identifies three specific "soft skills" to look for, why they matter, and how to spot them in a candidate for the top job.

West Virginia Supreme Court Establishes Lawyer Well-Being Task Force

The 2017 report "The Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change" (by a national task force that involved the ABA and two other organizations) has prompted several states to look more thoroughly at lawyers' mental health, substance abuse problems, and other related concerns. The most recent may be West Virginia: In late March, the state supreme court established the West Virginia Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being. The 18-member group, whose first report is due December 31, 2018, is charged with establishing guidelines to implement recommendations from the national report. The [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#) has more details, including who is on the task force and what its chair said about why this work is needed now.

In Response to Redistricting, Pennsylvania House Members File to Impeach Justices

Congressional redistricting has been a hot topic in Pennsylvania recently; now, it has led to an effort to impeach certain state supreme court justices. Eleven Republican members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives signed on to proposed legislation to impeach four justices who are Democrats and who are in favor of the new map. Chief Justice Thomas Saylor issued a statement that said, in part, "Threats of impeachment directed against justices because of their decision in a particular case are an attack upon an independent judiciary, which is an essential component of our constitutional plan of

government." Rep. Cris Dush, who proposed the four pieces of legislation, countered that the court overstepped its role by redrawing the map, and that "[w]hen the judicial branch fails to follow the constitution, the constitutional answer is impeachment." [The Legal Intelligencer](#) sheds more light on this contentious issue.



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