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Issue 105 | April 10

**What Are Consumers Willing to Pay for Legal Services?**

## Court Filings Are Down, and so Is People's Willingness to Pay for Lawyers

Lawyers generally traffic in words and in well-learned principles and precedents. But these days, writes Jayne Reardon at [2Civility](#), numbers and data have become more important and harder to ignore. Two data points that Reardon thinks lawyers should track especially closely are that court filings are down and that people think lawyers cost too much. For example, she writes, in her home state of Illinois, civil filings have declined 32 percent over the last 20 years, from 634,000 to 430,000—and the drop from 2009 to now has been especially precipitous. Regarding the cost of hiring a lawyer, Reardon draws from data that indicate that consumers will find ways to pay for medical care and for college tuition even when these exceed their comfort level—but the same isn't true of legal services. Find out what Reardon thinks unites these two sets of numbers, and what lawyers should learn from them.

## The Florida Bar, U.S. Department of Justice Battle Over State Actor Immunity in Antitrust Case

A few months ago, Bar Leader Weekly told you about an antitrust suit filed against The Florida Bar by a traffic ticket-fighting startup called TIKD. The most recent development is that the U.S. Department of Justice says the bar shouldn't automatically have "state actor" immunity from antitrust claims—and the bar says the DOJ has misunderstood the facts. [Bloomberg Law Big Law Business](#) has more details on this case and on the tussle between the DOJ and the bar.

## They Write, They Talk, They Negotiate ? and They're Lonely: Social Isolation a Problem for Lawyers

It's widely known that lawyers suffer from depression, anxiety, and addiction at alarmingly high rates compared with the general population. But did you know that lawyers are also just plain lonely? In a recent survey of more than 1,600 workers, 61 percent of lawyers ranked above average on a "loneliness scale" developed by the University of California at Los Angeles, making them the loneliest professionals in the study. What, exactly, does the scale measure, how did the legal profession compare with others—and what are some of the serious problems that can arise from chronic social isolation? Learn more at [ABA Journal](#).

## Good, Bad, or a Bit of Both? Seven Changes Affecting New Lawyers Today

When we think of changes in the legal market that are affecting new lawyers, it may be natural to focus on the negative. But Mark Weber, assistant dean of career services at Harvard Law School, says not all of those changes are so bad—especially if new lawyers and their employers find different ways to look at them. For example, he writes at [The National Law Journal](#), many new associates today have no expectation of ever making partner and view a Big Law stint as a way to pay off debt or as a springboard to other things. Rather than fighting that tendency, Weber adds, some firms are building career development programs and "alumni clubs" to keep lawyers connected after they leave. That's one of seven changes that Weber identifies. What are the others—and what are the potential

upsides to some of them?



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