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[Coffee Break at the Dallas Bar Association](#)

Dallas Bar Association Hosts Implicit Bias 'Coffee Break' on Same Day as Starbucks Training

Last week, Starbucks closed all of its locations nationwide for one day, to provide staff training in implicit bias (stereotype-based beliefs that someone might have without realizing it). On that same day? May 29? the Dallas Bar Association, along with several other organizations, hosted what they called a Coffee Break, a town hall to discuss both implicit and explicit (more outwardly apparent) bias. Besides referencing the headline-grabbing Starbucks training, "coffee" stood for Communities Organized for Fairness, Equality and Empowerment. Find out more via video and an article from [local NBC affiliate NBCDFW5](#).

Recent Report: Solo and Small-Firm Lawyers Earned an Average of Almost \$200K in 2017

A recent report based on an online survey by the Martindale Legal Marketing Network offers a fairly positive snapshot of how solo and small-firm lawyers are doing? in terms of compensation, and in terms of whether they'd choose the same career path again. Among survey respondents, 68 percent said they believe they are fairly compensated, and 73 percent said that if they had it to do over again, they would choose law as a career. Their average earnings last year were \$198,000, with a median of \$140,000. [ABA Journal](#) has more details, including which practice areas fared especially well, whether earnings increased or decreased from the prior year, and whether there's a gender gap.

ABA President Hilarie Bass: LSC Funding Essential, Should Increase

The number of people who qualify for legal services funded by the Legal Services Corp. has risen by 25 percent since 2007, but funding for LSC is below its most recent peak in 2010. These and other statistics were cited late last month by ABA President Hilarie Bass, who submitted testimony to a U.S. Senate subcommittee in which she advocated that LSC funding be restored to "at least" inflation-adjusted 2010 levels. "Funding for equal justice under federal law cannot be shouldered by state and local governments as an unfunded mandate," Bass said in her testimony. What else did she cite to help make her case? Learn more at [ABA Journal](#).

Big Law Firm Launches 'Innovation Hours' Program to Advance Legal Tech

Many big law firms recently have been working to support innovation in the legal profession. But one such firm is demonstrating its commitment via that potent combination of time and money: the billable hour. After a successful pilot last year, [The American Lawyer](#) says, Reed Smith is launching a new program in which lawyers at all levels can earn billable hour credits for time spent helping to advance innovation in legal technology and operations. How will the Innovation Hours program work, and why did the firm think it was important to incentivize innovation in this way?



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