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Webinar Helps You Roll with the Changes

How to Keep up with Change? New Webinar Series from ABA Center for Innovation

It's not always easy to keep track of all the innovation that is now occurring in the legal profession and in delivery of legal services. That's why the ABA Center for Innovation has launched the ABA Center for Innovation Network: Every other month, this network will present a webinar in which change agents speak about their recent work and then answer questions. The first episode, on a novel way to reduce recidivism rates in prison, is scheduled for June 20 at 1:00 p.m. Central. Visit the network to learn more and to register.

In a First, ABA Pulls Accreditation from Arizona Summit Law School

Earlier this month, the ABA pulled accreditation from the Arizona Summit Law School—the first time it has taken this action against a fully qualified program. According to Bloomberg Law Big Law Business, one attorney blogger said the school "has been exploiting unqualified students, especially minority students, for the past several years, leaving hundreds of students with no job, no bar license and crippling debt." The school's president countered that Summit's LSAT scores have seen "one of the nation's most dramatic rises," and that the school has maintained compliance with the ultimate bar pass standard. Read more about Summit's response and about some related litigation involving the ABA and the school's parent company, Infilaw.

For Lawyers, Is the Future T-Shaped?

Even if they think they're doing a great job training future lawyers, law schools may still be overlooking a major trend—and thereby missing the larger point—according to some speakers at the recent Thomson Reuters 2018 Legal Executive Forum. What is that trend? It involves technology, but it's not just about that; it's the movement toward lawyers and legal professionals helping clients with their business and operational needs as much as their legal ones. In discussing this trend, William Henderson of Indiana University Maurer School of Law used the term "T-shaped lawyers," meaning those who complement their legal training with expertise in areas such as business operations, legal technology, and process design. Legaltech news shares further insights from this forum.

State Bar of California Mulls Ethical Questions when Lawyers Seek Legal Advice

If a lawyer seeks legal advice regarding possible errors, should the lawyer then have to disclose this to the client who is involved? The answer, according to a proposed opinion from the State Bar of California, depends on several factors that are highlighted in detailed hypotheticals. The opinion does not address questions of privilege, notes Bloomberg Law Big Law Business, but instead focuses on the knotty ethical questions that can arise when lawyers seek legal advice regarding potential mistakes. The proposed opinion was circulated by the bar's Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct; what complicated situations does it address, and under what circumstances does the opinion say a lawyer must disclose?
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