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Nonlawyer Ownership in CA?

State Bar of California Task Force to Explore Nonlawyer Ownership of Legal Services Companies

With the legal profession at what Bill Henderson calls "an inflection point," is it time for regulators to consider allowing nonlawyers to own legal services companies? Henderson, a professor at Indiana University Maurer School of Law, thinks so, and he recently advised the State Bar of California to lead the way. The bar commissioned Henderson, an expert on the changing legal profession, to prepare a study of the current legal market. In his report, Henderson noted that the legal profession's restriction on outside investors has hindered innovation that would benefit corporate clients and has also made personal legal services too expensive for about 90 percent of consumers. In response, the state bar has established a task force to study the idea of nonlawyer ownership. [The American Lawyer](#) has more details, and a link to Henderson's report.

Surveys of Public, Members to Help State Bar of Texas Assess its Transparency

Is the State Bar of Texas transparent enough in how it communicates with the public? That question has been a priority for President Joe K. Longley, and now the public has been invited to weigh in, via an 11-question online survey that is open until August 6. (There's also a separate survey for bar members.) Aggregated results will be shared with the bar, and the data will also be used by Weaver, an independent advisory firm that the bar has hired to examine its transparency efforts and provide feedback on areas for improvement. Learn more at [Texas Bar Blog](#).

For Two-Lawyer Couples, Where Does 'Shop Talk' Cross a Line?

For lawyers who happen to be in a romantic relationship, it may be only natural to talk about their cases and give each other advice. But if they do, they might want to think twice about using clients' names or other identifying details, lest they violate confidentiality rules. The Ohio Supreme Court is now considering a report from the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct and may soon decide whether to sanction two lawyers who are engaged to be married, or to remand the matter for a hearing. A December 2017 bar complaint notes that on more than a dozen occasions, the couple exchanged emails to help each other with assignments without scrubbing out confidential information. What is their possible sanction, and is there a way they could have shared some information without landing in hot water? Find out at [Bloomberg Law Big Law Business](#).

For Your Summer Reading List: July-August *Bar Leader*

Want to learn how other bars are helping members connect with new clients? Or what's going on at a few unified bars, and what their chief staff executives see ahead? How a bar foundation rebranding effort can bring new energy to the foundation and the association alike? The [July-August 2018 issue](#) of *Bar Leader* has you covered. If you're coming to Chicago, read it on the plane to get up to speed before Annual Meeting!

Bar Leader Weekly will be on hiatus next week.



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