Legal Services Dilemma in California

State Bar of California: Who Should Determine What Groups Receive IOLTA, Other Funds?

One outcome of the major shift in which the State Bar of California shed most of its functions in order to focus on the regulatory side, writes Cheryl Miller at The Recorder, is that there’s now a spotlight on a committee that had been working in relative obscurity for years. The 24-member Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, which includes 15 lawyers and three bench officers, works with bar staff to evaluate organizations that seek a portion of IOLTA and other funding. Is this too important a task to entrust to a commission of volunteers rather than to the bar’s board of trustees? Or is the work so complex and time consuming that the board would struggle to add it to its other duties?

Chicago Bar Association Offers Videos to Help Your Members with Technology, Practice Management

The Chicago Bar Association has an ever-growing collection of more than 100 on-demand "Law Practice Management and Technology How To?" videos?and now they’re available to your bar association, too. The CBA’s LPMT Division regularly sponsors live demonstrations of hardware and software geared to legal professionals and focused on their specific needs. Each demonstration (and video) is one hour or less. The videos are hosted in Vimeo, which means they are mobile friendly and can be rewound and forwarded. Access the video library directly, or for more information (including sample disclaimer language, and how to be added to an email list for newly added videos), contact Catherine Sanders Reach.

ABA Revises Ethics Rules for Lawyer Advertising

In an effort to eliminate the "patchwork" of advertising rules from state to state, and to respond to three major trends, the ABA recently revised its ethics rules on lawyer advertising. The trends that helped spark the revision were cross-border practice; increased use of social media and the internet; and growing concerns with both antitrust and the First Amendment in cases where ads are truthful but still face restrictions. Both critics and proponents say that the revisions are a small step and that more may be needed, writes Mindy L. Rattan at Bloomberg Law Big Law Business. What, exactly, was approved at the 2018 ABA Annual Meeting?

Two Law Schools Team up to Find New Ways to Reduce Number of Evictions

A collaboration between BYU Law School’s LawX Legal Design Lab (which is entering its second year) and University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law’s newly launched Innovation for Justice program will explore ways to reduce the number of evictions in those two states and elsewhere. Beginning with the fall semester, students in those programs will use design thinking and technology to come up with possible solutions. "Less than 20 percent of tenants served with an eviction notice come to court," writes Robert Ambrogi at his LawSites blog, "meaning viable legal defenses often go unheard." Learn more about the scope of the problem and how this joint project will work.
Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services

Read the latest issue of Bar Leader Magazine