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Oregon State Bar Faces Janus-Inspired Lawsuit

Citing *Janus*, Two Lawyers Sue Oregon State Bar

In June, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *Janus* case, finding that public employees cannot be required to pay dues and fees if they opt out of union membership, many observers predicted that there may be a flurry of lawsuits against unified bars. Now, two lawyers in Oregon have filed a federal lawsuit against the Oregon State Bar, contending that mandatory bar dues or fees violate their constitutional rights and that the bar is also infringing on their First Amendment rights by using dues and fees to subsidize political and ideological activities. What is the basis for their claims? and what is the bar's response? Find out at [Oregon Live](#).

Utah State Courts Pilot Online Dispute Resolution for Small Claims Cases

"This is one of those smallish steps that is suggestive of something bigger," writes Robert Ambrogi at [LawSites](#), regarding an online dispute resolution pilot program in Utah. The ODR pilot, which the Utah State Courts launched last week, involves using this technology to resolve small claims cases in the Justice Court in West Valley City, a suburb of Salt Lake City. Apart from this pilot, only three U.S. courts are using ODR in any capacity, Ambrogi says, and only one other is offering it for all small claims cases. How does ODR work? and how could it help improve the way courts provide access to justice?

In Lean Times, Bars in New York State Contemplate How to Make the Most of Their Buildings

As many bar associations confront a downward trend in membership numbers, they are working to get their financial "house" in order? and in some cases, they're also thinking differently about their physical house or headquarters. Some bar associations in New York state have sought new ways to maintain? or perhaps sell? their buildings, according to the [New York Law Journal](#). The New York County Lawyers Association has hired an investment team to sell its headquarters building (though this is still only a possibility), the New York State Bar Association has stepped up its marketing of its building as an event venue, and the Brooklyn Bar Association is looking at taking out a line of credit or a mortgage on its building, or having its leaders chip in \$2,500 each. Read more about these approaches and what the bars' leaders have to say.

Texas Ethics Opinion: Reduced Fees Still Fall Under Rule Against Direct Solicitation

Should a nonprofit law firm that represents modest-means clients be allowed to directly solicit self-represented litigants who can't afford an attorney but earn too much to qualify for pro bono? In August, the State Bar of Texas Professional Ethics Committee found that this violated a disciplinary rule against direct solicitation when a significant motive is the lawyer's "pecuniary gain." However modest, the committee decided, any pecuniary gain (including from fees that are reduced, below market, or flat) is still enough to violate that rule. At [Bloomberg Law Big Law Business](#), learn more about the disciplinary rule, the ethics question, and how the committee made its decision.



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