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Issue 128 | October 2

[More Changes at the State Bar of California](#)

[New State Bar of California Attorney Fee Law Brings Important Changes](#)

On September 21, Gov. Jerry Brown signed the latest attorney fee law pertaining to the State Bar of California, which maintains the bar's newly revised form and function, but with some important new changes. For example, if a lawyer is incarcerated for 90 days or more, the State Bar Court must put him or her on involuntary inactive status; the state Supreme Court is required to disbar a lawyer after a felony conviction if the crime involved "moral turpitude" or certain other factors; taking certain pro bono cases can satisfy a portion of mandatory CLE requirements; and lawyers are now called "licensees" rather than "members" to reinforce that the bar is a regulatory agency. At [Bloomberg Law Big Law Business](#), find out more about the new law, including an intensive audit that is required before the bar can seek another dues increase.

[Avvo Reaches Agreement with New York Attorney General, Will Increase Transparency](#)

Last week, Avvo reached an agreement with the New York Attorney General's Office to provide more transparency in its lawyer-rating system and to pay a \$50,000 fine. The changes will include consumer disclosures about how the rating process is conducted and about how legal forms are posted on the website; the fine is to cover the cost of the attorney general's investigation. In particular, Avvo must now divulge that lawyers who engage with their profile (such as by uploading a resume) receive a higher ranking and the company can no longer state that its ratings are "unbiased." Also, New York lawyers will now be able to have the company correct their Avvo-generated profiles without first having to actively create a profile and agree to the terms of service. [ABA Journal](#) has more details, including what the attorney general and Avvo each have to say about this agreement.

[Prospective Law Students Not in It for the Money, Study Finds](#)

If the promise of a big paycheck was ever the main driver for people to apply to law school, it would seem that this is no longer the case. According to [law.com](#), a "highly anticipated" study commissioned by the Association of American Law Schools found that among the thousands of undergraduates and first-year law students surveyed by Gallup, access to high-paying jobs was the fifth most-cited reason for interest in law school. The top four reasons were: a pathway to a career in politics, government or public service; a passion and high interest in legal work; opportunities to give back to others; and the desire to be an advocate for social change. Who were some of the other sponsors for "Before the J.D.: Undergraduate Views on Law School," and what are some other significant findings?

[Valparaiso, Middle Tennessee State University Take Steps in Plan to Transfer Law School](#)

The rather unconventional plan to move a law school from Indiana to Tennessee appears to be progressing, with Valparaiso University School of Law and Middle Tennessee State University making some significant decisions. Under the proposed transfer, some key Valparaiso faculty, administrators and staff will join MTSU, Valparaiso's law library will be

relocated there, and ABA accreditation will continue during and after the transfer. Also notable is that the transfer, which must first be approved by each institution's governing board and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, would also mean a change from private law school to public. How did this idea first come about, how would the transfer work, and is there enough interest in the region to support a new law school? Learn more at [MTSU Sidelines](#).

New from DBS: the Board Catalyst Webinar Series

The ABA Division for Bar Services is thrilled to announce the launch of its Board Catalyst webinar series, designed to help your board govern collaboratively and courageously. Here is the lineup for the series:

- **Rethinking Our Governance Practices** | A Conversation with Mark Engle | October 10, 2018
- **Critical Issues for Boards in 2019** | Mary Byers | December 12, 2018
- **The Best Associations Say No** | Jeffrey Cufaude | February 6, 2019
- **Getting, Giving and Growing: The Board Member Experience** | Elizabeth Derrico | April 3, 2019
- **Trends & Developments in the Bar Association Landscape** | Jennifer Lewin and Molly Flood | June 5, 2019

Executive directors received a registration email on September 26; if you did not receive it, please [contact Joanne O'Reilly](#).



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