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Getting Serious about Diversity & Inclusion

ABA Past President, Other High-Profile Lawyers Start Diversity Firms

Last month, Hilarie Bass, immediate past president of the American Bar Association, announced that she would step down from her role as co-president of law firm Greenberg Traurig to found the Bass Institute on Diversity and Inclusion, which will address issues affecting women and minorities across industries. She's not alone: A few other lawyers (all women) in prominent positions have announced that they are leaving to start new ventures that focus on diversity, inclusion, and equity. Who else is making this kind of move, why do they think it's needed? and are law firms ready to focus more strategically on diversity and inclusion, whether by bringing in an outside consultant or hiring a diversity director? Learn more at [The American Lawyer](#).

Meet the Second Class of ABA NextGen and Innovation Fellows

The ABA Center for Innovation recently announced its second class of NextGen Fellows and Innovation Fellows. All completed a legal innovation boot camp and will now begin their projects in access to justice? projects that will last a year for NextGen Fellows and up to four months for Innovation Fellows. One fellow will work with the National Center for State Courts on how to make legal information and court processes easier for the public to understand. Another, working in conjunction with the Military Spouse JD Network, will research how to make it easier for attorney-spouses of members of the military to practice (including pro bono cases) after a relocation. What are some of the other projects? An [ABA news item](#) lists all the new fellows and what their focus will be.

In Lawsuit, Former West Virginia Lawyer Says Impeachment Was a Partisan Move

Was the well-publicized impeachment of four justices of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals a partisan "power grab" based on dislike of political views and judicial opinions? At least one former justice, Robin Davis, thinks so? and she has filed a federal lawsuit to that effect. Davis says the articles of impeachment were legally and factually insufficient, and that the mass nature of the impeachment vote indicates that the goal was not to uncover malfeasance, but instead to remove justices with whom members of the state's House of Delegates disagreed. Davis and the other three justices were accused of failing to develop guidelines for the use of public resources, and Davis was also accused of "unnecessary and lavish spending" on an office renovation. [ABA Journal](#) has more details about both the impeachment and the lawsuit.

The CEO's Role in Managing the Board

We've moved beyond the days where the association board sets the direction and the executive director and staff carry out the decisions that arise, but it can still be tricky when a chief staff executive sees that the board is making a mistake (or a series of mistakes), or is just not working as well as it should. At [Associations Now](#), Mark Athitakis says that it ultimately does not serve the association well if the CEO or ED is a silent or always agreeable functionary. But how can the chief staff executive speak up constructively, and

without getting fired? It's important to lay a groundwork of trust and rapport, Athitakis writes, and to clear up any confusion about what the different roles involve.



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