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## Dementia & the Legal Profession

### Sandra Day O'Connor's Announcement of Dementia Highlights Systemic Problem in Legal Profession

Sometimes, a high-profile piece of sad news is an opportunity to reflect on a broader issue and systemic changes that are needed. Shortly after retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announced that she is in the early stages of dementia, [The American Lawyer](#) republished its previous article about age-related cognitive impairment in the legal profession. Shame and fear of immediately losing their jobs prevent many older lawyers from disclosing early signs of impairment, writes Christine Simmons, and law firms are often reluctant to confront an issue that may become all the more pervasive as baby boomers continue to age and keep working. What is the scope of this problem, and what do some LAP directors and other experts have to say about the risks involved in ignoring it?

### What Can You Learn from a Shopping Cart? 4 Key Lessons about Innovation

More than 10 years ago, for an episode of Nightline, a team from the firm IDEO was asked to come up with an innovative redesign of the basic grocery store shopping cart. Since then, shopping carts have remained pretty much the same?but Jeffrey Cufaude at [Idea Architects](#) says that there are some timeless lessons about innovation that we can learn from the team's process. What are the four big ideas that Cufaude, a [2019 ABA Bar Leadership Institute](#) and [Board Catalyst](#) speaker, sees in IDEO's work on that humble piece of retail equipment? And what insights does he believe you can apply, whatever it is you need to redesign, redo, or rethink?

### 2018 Annual National Celebration of Pro Bono Theme Spotlights Disaster Resiliency Efforts

Between hurricanes and wildfires, along with many other such events, 2017 was a record-breaking year for disasters across the United States?and 2018 has seen its share of disasters, too. That made it especially timely for this year's Annual National Celebration of Pro Bono?organized by the ABA and, for 2018, held October 21-27?to focus on lawyers' role in disaster recovery and resiliency. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Pro Bono Celebration; at [ABA Journal](#), find out what ABA President Bob Carlson had to say about the event and the important work highlighted by the theme.

### Harvard Business Review Research Identifies 6 Fundamental Skills for Leaders, and How to Learn Them

For the past year, Ron Ashkenas and Brook Manville have been writing the *HBR Leader's Handbook*?which means they've interviewed more than 40 successful leaders of large corporations, startups and nonprofits, and have combed through several decades of leadership-related research published in Harvard Business Review. This process has shown them that, more so than books and training courses, the best way to develop leadership proficiency is through "real experience and continual practice"?in other words, learning by doing. At [hbr.org](#), Ashkenas and Manville share some tips on how to seek out these learning opportunities, and six specific skills that are consistently mentioned as being fundamental for leaders.

## ABA Requests State and Local Bars' Help to Curb FDCPA Lawsuits, CFPB Rules Targeting Attorneys

On October 24, the ABA sent a [Legislative Action Alert](#) to state and local bar leaders asking them to write their members of Congress and express support for H.R. 5082, the "Practice of Law Technical Clarification Act." The bipartisan legislation, approved by the House Financial Services Committee last March, would help restore traditional state court regulation and oversight of the legal profession by exempting creditor attorneys engaged in litigation from liability under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and from burdensome Consumer Financial Protection Bureau regulations. The House may vote on the measure as early as mid-November. The ABA action alert, [Fact Sheet](#), and [Sample Bar Letter to Representatives](#) are available on the ABA's FDCPA Reform web page. If you have any questions, please contact Larson Frisby in the ABA Governmental Affairs Office at (202) 662-1098 or [larson.frisby@americanbar.org](mailto:larson.frisby@americanbar.org).



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