Issue 135 | December 4

Changes for the State Bar of Arizona

State Bar of Arizona Selects Joel F. England as Next CEO/Executive Director
Late last month, the State Bar of Arizona announced that Joel F. England, currently a tribal judge, will succeed John F. Phelps as chief executive officer and executive director. England, who is chief judge of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Court and a former Air Force lawyer, will begin at the bar on January 2, serving alongside Phelps until Phelps retires on February 1. An AP news item has more details. In other news from Arizona, the state Supreme Court has created a new court committee to provide advisory opinions on lawyer ethics and related issues. According to U.S. News & World Report, this is the most recent in a series of moves by the state Supreme Court to have the court system take on duties that were previously within the scope of the state bar.

U.S. Supreme Court: 8th Circuit Must Reconsider Fleck v. Wetch
On December 3, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered a federal appeals court to reconsider Fleck v. Wetch, and to take into account the high court's June decision that struck down mandatory union dues for collective bargaining on behalf of government employees. North Dakota lawyer Arnold Fleck, represented by the Goldwater Institute, has contended that he should not be compelled to join a bar association, including the unified State Bar Association of North Dakota. Further, he believes his First Amendment rights are violated by the requirement that he opt out of dues supporting activities that are not relevant to the practice of law, rather than opting in if he wishes to support those activities. The 8th Circuit had ruled against Fleck in August 2017. Learn more at ABA Journal.

New Study Finds Possible Reason for a Paradox in Studies of Women and Men in the Profession
Studies of retention and job satisfaction among women lawyers often uncover a paradox: While women continue to leave the profession at a persistently high rate, most survey research does not indicate gender differences in attorneys' job satisfaction. Why is that? A recent study from Vanderbilt University argues that it's because new lawyers who are women become dissatisfied and leave the profession at higher rates than their peers who are men—which means that they are already gone by the time most surveys are conducted. Empirical Legal Studies shares an abstract from the research paper.

Persistently Low IOLTA Revenue After 2008 Recession Spells Ongoing Trouble for Civil Legal Services
In news that will come as no surprise to many on the front lines of access to justice, IOLTA programs took a hit in the recession of 2008 and they have never yet rebounded. From a high of about $371 million nationwide in 2007, IOLTA revenue tumbled precipitously over the next few years and has since remained relatively flat, with the most current total being about $84 million in 2016. Law 360 takes a sobering look at what this has meant for civil legal aid programs, bar foundations, and other stakeholders in several states and how they have worked to find new sources of funding and adapt to this seemingly permanent change.
Registration Now Open for 2019 ABA Bar Leadership Institute

The 2019 ABA Bar Leadership Institute is now open for registration?with an early bird discount in effect until January 30. BLI 2019 will be March 13-15, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown. This premier event from the Division for Bar Services and Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services provides presidents-elect and other leaders on the presidential track with techniques and skills essential to bar leadership. It also allows them to learn and spend time with their bars’ chief staff executives and with their peers from across the country. Don't miss out?and don't miss the discount. Register today!

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