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Lawyer Wellness at Tipping Point

2019: The Year of Lawyer Well-Being?

"I think 2019, candidly, is going to be the year of well-being," says Patrick Krill, a mental health advocate who was instrumental in both the landmark 2016 Hazelden/ABA study on lawyer wellness and the law firm wellness pledge that the ABA launched in 2018. According to [The American Lawyer](#), several noteworthy events in the past year have increased the focus on this topic and have led to efforts that will intensify in the year ahead. Along with the ABA pledge, *The American Lawyer* points to the self-inflicted shooting death of a law firm partner—and an essay written by his widow, explaining what may have led to the tragedy—as rallying the profession to make changes. What has happened so far, and what do Krill and others see down the road?

Podcast: Will Hornsby on Innovation, Ethics, and Access to Justice

How accurate are current discussions of the access to justice gap, and the figures cited for the percentage of legal needs that go unmet? Are there other, more productive ways to look at the overall problem? During his 30 years as staff counsel for the ABA Division for Legal Services, Will Hornsby was known for his provocative insights on the nature of the gap—and the commonly held belief that current ethics rules impede lawyers from innovating in their practice. Hornsby is now a solo practitioner who helps lawyers, legal marketers, and innovators understand how to embrace opportunity and remain compliant. In a recent episode of the [Lawyerist Podcast](#), he discussed the intersection of ethics and innovation, and how the combination can help more people resolve their legal problems.

Leading Change Requires Empathy, Communication

When it comes to major organizational change, most leaders know that it's important to show empathy when communicating about how the changes will affect staff members. The problem, according to Patti Sanchez, chief strategy officer at Duarte, Inc., is that they don't know how to do that. So, what does it take? Understand that people's wants and needs evolve as a change progresses, Sanchez writes. Also, she advises, give everyone as much information as you can while still retaining necessary privacy, and involve individuals at all levels. At [Harvard Business Review](#), Sanchez shares a few case studies from leaders who successfully put these ideas into practice.

Wrapping up the 2017-2018 Congressional Session: 16 Big Wins for Law and Justice

On the political front, many people say that 2018 wasn't the smoothest, most productive year. But in terms of ABA advocacy on behalf of lawyers and the justice system, the 115th Congress was marked by some serious wins. For example, the First Step Act enacted changes within the criminal justice system, and the Legal Services Corporation saw its funding preserved—both of which were top priorities for the ABA and its Governmental Affairs Office. What else happened during the 2017-2018 Congressional session? [ABA Journal](#) lists what it calls 16 success stories.

Scholarship Application Process Extended for 2019 ABA

Bar Leadership Institute

The 2019 ABA Bar Leadership Institute (March 13-15 in Chicago) will be here before you know it?and the scholarship application process is already under way. The ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services is offering three scholarships for presidents-elect and other incoming leaders, the National Conference of Bar Presidents is sponsoring an additional scholarship for a president-elect, and the National Association of Bar Executives has earmarked another scholarship to be awarded to an executive director who is a NABE member. The application deadline for both types of scholarships is now Friday January 11, at noon Central. Read more about the eligibility criteria, and [apply today!](#)



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