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State, Governor Immune from MO Public Defender Lawsuit

8th Circuit Ruling: State of Missouri, Governor Immune in ACLU Indigent Defense Lawsuit

Earlier this month, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals at St. Louis dealt a major blow to a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri when it ruled that the state and its governor have immunity from a class action involving allegedly inadequate funding for the public defender system. Former Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon withheld about \$7 million in public defender funds in 2016, and the state's current governor, Eric Greitens, did not release the money. The case is still expected to go to trial soon, according to [ABA Journal](#), but the ruling means that the state can't be ordered to provide more money for public defenders. Where does Missouri rank among other states in terms of this funding, and what other solutions might be pursued?

University of Iowa College of Law Program Helps Students from Grambling Explore Legal Careers

This March, as many as 25 students from Grambling State University will participate in a "law school boot camp" via the University of Iowa College of Law Bridge Program. The goal of the bridge program is to support diversity in legal education and in the profession by helping students from underrepresented communities learn more about legal careers and law school. (Grambling is a historically black university.) The program involves a weekend of training and networking with lawyers and professors, assistance with law school applications, and an all-expenses-paid trip from Grambling, which is in Louisiana, to Iowa to attend class at the law school. [The News-Star](#) has more details.

11 Easy Hacks to Maximize Your Tech Use in 2019

Sometimes, a top 10 list doesn't quite cut it?that's when you have to crank it up to 11. In that spirit, [Gizmodo](#) offers 11 tech tips to help you be more productive this year. From making smart use of voice commands to managing the number of notifications you get on your devices to using filters to tame your inbox, learn some new tricks?and some ways to make better use of the tools you already have.

Nebraska State Bar Association Launches Health Insurance Consortium

For many law firms in Nebraska, the start of a new year marked the launch of a new option in health insurance: the Nebraska State Bar Association Health Insurance Consortium. The coverage, whose carrier is Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, went live on January 1, with a total of seven plan options: four PPOs and three HSAs. Each eligible employer (defined as a law firm or sole proprietor with at least one staff person working at least 17.5 hours) can select up to two plans to offer to employees. They can also select regional networks to achieve additional savings. Sole proprietors with no staff may eventually be eligible, pending a decision from the U.S. Department of Labor regarding a request made by the NSBA and the Nebraska Department of Insurance. At [The Nebraska Lawyer](#), NSBA Executive Director Elizabeth Neeley shares more information about the new consortium.



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