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Lawsuit Challenges State Bar of Texas's Mandatory Structure

Federal Lawsuit, Filed Last Week, Challenges Mandatory State Bar of Texas

Last Wednesday, the State Bar of Texas became the latest bar to face a challenge regarding its mandatory structure, as three Texas lawyers filed a federal lawsuit in Texas' Western District. The lawsuit, which cites *Janus*, lists bar President Joe Longley as defendant and dozens of bar officers and board members as co-defendants. The three lawyers claim that their "coerced" membership helps support programs for minority, immigrant, and disadvantaged communities, activities that they do not endorse. [Texas Lawyer](#) has more details.

State Bar of California Studying Mandatory Malpractice, Report Due March 31

Will California soon join Oregon and Idaho in requiring all attorneys to carry malpractice insurance? The State Bar of California is currently studying this question, with a report due to lawmakers and the California Supreme Court by March 31. The bar's Malpractice Insurance Working Group appears to be divided on the issue: Eight of the 14 members who were present at a meeting earlier this year voted against instituting the new requirement, according to [Above the Law](#). What are the arguments for and against this potential change?

Comments Invited: ABA Standing Committee on Professional Regulation Drafts Resolution, Report Supporting PMBR Programs

The ABA Standing Committee on Professional Regulation plans to file a resolution and report with the House of Delegates at the association's Annual Meeting, urging state supreme courts to study and implement proactive management-based regulation programs. Focusing on PMBR programs, which are separate from the disciplinary system, is part of the committee's ongoing work to move the lawyer regulatory system toward more prevention rather than prosecution, according to an announcement on the [committee's web page](#). The committee seeks comments on its draft resolution and report by April 15, 2019; the announcement links to the draft, a letter from the committee chair, and the email address where comments should be sent.

ABA President Bob Carlson Calls on Lawyers to Assist Survivors of Alaska Earthquake

There have been nearly 5,000 aftershocks since a 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Alaska last November, and now the spring thaw is revealing damage that may have gone unnoticed before. This means that new legal needs continue to arise and many survivors require pro bono assistance. A [statement from ABA President Bob Carlson](#) highlights the important steps that have been taken to ensure that lawyers from across the country can help, and offers several links for more information and to volunteer.

2019 BLI News: Program Now Available, Bar Leader

Weekly on a Short Break

The 2019 ABA Bar Leadership Institute is officially right around the corner?in fact, some of its programming starts tomorrow! If you or anyone else from your bar will be at BLI in Chicago March 13-15, now you can check out [the program](#) and finish firming up your plans. Another note: Because of this event, there will be no Bar Leader Weekly on March 19; it will resume on March 26.



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