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First Fee Increase in 20 Years for State Bar of California?

Citing Flat Revenue and Rising Costs, State Bar of California Seeks First Fee Increase in 20+ Years

"No amount of re-engineering and budget-cutting can make up for the fact that [the bar's] core source of revenue is flat, while costs for labor, technology, and other necessities keep rising." That's according to State Bar of California Board of Trustees President Jason Lee, in a statement earlier this month regarding a request for a fee increase; if approved, this would be the bar's first fee increase since 1998. The bar will ask state legislators to increase fees for active lawyers by at least \$100 annually; bar trustees are also seeking a charge of \$330 in one-time fees to pay for technology and building improvements and to boost reserves and the client security fund. [The Recorder](#) has more details.

ABA President Bob Carlson Urges Congress to Support LSC, Public Service Loan Forgiveness

For the third year in a row, the Legal Services Corp. is under threat of being eliminated via the federal budget proposed by President Trump. In a statement last week, ABA President Bob Carlson called on Congress to reject this proposal and to increase funding for LSC, which is the largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans. Carlson also asked Congress to reject the Trump administration's proposal to eliminate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, which provides student loan forgiveness to qualified participants after they spend 10 years working in public service and making payments. Learn more about these proposals, and about similar ones in prior years, at [ABA Journal](#).

State Senate Committee Hears Proposal to Dissolve Washington State Bar Association

Amid confusion over the role of the bar, challenges to the mandatory structure, and accusations that its board is secretive and unresponsive to members (including regarding the dismissal of Executive Director Paula Littlewood), the Washington State Bar Association could be dissolved and have its essential duties turned over to the state Supreme Court. A proposal to repeal the State Bar Act passed the Washington State House and was scheduled to be heard by a Senate committee last Tuesday, according to [KUOW.org](#). The majority of the bar's board opposes this move, noting that the bar's programs for low-income clients would be in jeopardy, but board President Bill Pickett says the bar is struggling and that he supports the proposal.

Monroe County Bar Association Conference Shows Lawyers Are Eager for Tech Info from Local Bars

If you invite legal tech blogger Robert Ambrogi to be a keynote speaker, you might then read a candid, thorough assessment of your event. Fortunately for the Monroe County (N.Y.) Bar Association, Ambrogi was impressed by the bar's second annual Solo and Small Firm Conference and came away thinking about the critical role that smaller bars can play in helping lawyers achieve tech competence. At [Above the Law](#), Ambrogi notes that many attendees were not as technologically savvy as they need to be, but that the majority were eager to learn more. In fact, he writes, they derailed one of the breakouts by asking so many questions that the speaker never got into his presentation?making it one of the most

useful sessions that day. What were some of their questions?

ABA Offers Resources, Clearinghouse to Commemorate Centennial of 19th Amendment

2020 marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the constitutional right to vote. Will your bar help celebrate this milestone, educate the public about this amendment and the battle for women's suffrage, and promote voter education activities to encourage participation in democracy? The ABA will offer a range of materials and resources for these celebrations and has launched [a clearinghouse](#) to share plans and connect with other organizations. While you're there, make sure to complete the short survey about your commemoration plans.



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michael.ward@AMERICANBAR.ORG.
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American Bar Association
321 N Clark, Chicago, IL 60654-7598
800-285-2221 | 312-988-5522

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