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An End to the Oregon State Bar Lawsuits?

Citing Keller, Federal Judge Recommends Dismissing Lawsuits Against Oregon State Bar

Last week, a federal magistrate in Oregon recommended dismissing two lawsuits challenging the mandatory Oregon State Bar's use of member fees. The lawsuits pertain to two statements published in a 2018 issue of the *Bar Bulletin* that several attorneys said were political speech supported by their member fees without their consent. Judge Jolie A. Russo wrote that the bar, as an arm of the state, has immunity under the 11th Amendment. Citing *Keller*, the judge also wrote that offering a forum for a variety of political viewpoints is "germane to improving the quality of legal services." Did the *Janus* ruling come into play, and what could happen next? Find out at [OregonLive](#).

New Template from ABA CoLAP, Well-Being Working Group Helps Legal Employers Respond to Impairment

Now that lawyer well-being has risen to widespread prominence, many law firms and other legal employers know that they need to watch for signs that an employee is experiencing impairment due to a substance use disorder, mental health disorder or cognitive impairment. But many still struggle with exactly how to respond. A new template from the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs and the ABA Working Group to Advance Well-Being in the Legal Profession offers suggested guidelines for these important steps. The [Well-Being Template for Legal Employers](#) is accessible free of charge and can be tailored to meet the specific needs of any legal workplace.

Policy Change: Florida Board of Bar Examiners Will Pay for Evaluations Related to Certain Disorders

In a move that its chair says shows commitment to wellness in the legal profession, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners will now pay the fees?up to \$3,000?for recommended evaluations for applicants with possible substance use disorders or certain severe mental health disorders. Board Chair Scott Baena notes that prior to this policy change, which took effect on March 21, 2019, many such applicants opted for an investigative hearing instead because the cost of the evaluation was prohibitive. A [statement from the board](#) shares more details about this policy change and the intentions behind it.

New York State Bar Association Task Force to Explore Possible Link Between UBE, Drop in State-Specific Knowledge

As convenient as it is for aspiring lawyers who want to keep their options open, could there be a big downside to the Uniform Bar Exam? A newly formed New York State Bar Association task force plans to investigate whether the UBE has led to a lack of specific knowledge of how to practice in that state. No direct correlation has yet been made, and the task force will approach it as an open question. However, anecdotal accounts from judges and law schools seem to indicate a decline in state-specific knowledge and interest since New York adopted the UBE nearly three years ago. [New York Law Journal](#) has more information about the task force and some of the concerns that led to its formation.



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