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New ABA/LSC Partnership

Tech Companies Offer Free Products, Services to Legal Aid via New ABA-LSC Partnership

Last week, the ABA announced the first group of legal tech companies that will provide free products and services to legal aid offices via a new partnership between the association and the Legal Services Corp. The seven companies participating in the project, called Legal Tech for a Change, are: Ross Intelligence, PacerPro, MetaJure, vTestify, Civvis, Powernotes, and Documate. The ABA Center for Legal Innovation will focus on recruiting tech companies, while the LSC's role is to identify tech solutions that will help its grantees deliver legal services more efficiently and easily. An [ABA news item](#) shares more details about this new effort to help bridge the justice gap.

New Jersey State Bar Association Launches Portal to Help Lawyers Facing a Severe Medical Diagnosis

When a lawyer receives a severe medical diagnosis, it can upset everything in his or her life, including the many details involved in meeting clients' needs and practicing law. As a cancer survivor himself, New Jersey State Bar Association President John E. Keefe Jr. knows how overwhelming this can be—that's why he created the NJSBA Lawyers Helping Lawyers Task Force, to help find ways to assist lawyers who face this type of crisis. As part of that work, the bar recently launched an online portal that has a preparedness checklist; sample letters to colleagues, clients, and courts; and a mechanism to help lawyers connect with additional resources. Learn more about the task force and portal at [New Jersey Law Journal](#).

Do Judges Have a Duty of Technological Competence?and Should It Be Spelled Out?

So far, writes Robert Ambrogi, 36 states have adopted the ABA Model Rule comment that says lawyers have a duty to know how to use technology safely and well. But what about judges? Ambrogi notes that in everything from e-discovery to courtroom presentations, technology is in the court every day—and judges need to know how to use it, and how to give guidance on its proper use. At [Above the Law](#), Ambrogi highlights some serious consequences that have arisen because judges didn't adequately understand or use technology, and makes a case for adding an explicit mention of technology competence to the Model Code of Judicial Conduct.

Dallas Bar Association Receives Texas Bar Foundation Grant for New Incubator

Thanks to a recent grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, this fall, the Dallas Bar Association will launch an incubator program called Entrepreneurs in Community Lawyering—the first-ever local legal incubator in Dallas. The goal is to establish a pipeline for lawyers to establish thriving solo and small practices that serve modest-means clients. The program, one of DBA President Laura Benitez Geisler's initiatives during her term, was inspired by the Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator from the State Bar of Texas. [Texas Bar Blog](#) has more information about the new incubator, including how many lawyers will participate and how they will be selected.

Enter Soon! ABA Partnership Awards Program Nominations Now Open

Is your bar doing great work to increase diversity and inclusion in your legal community? Nominations are now open for the ABA Partnership Awards Program, and the awards will be presented at a National Conference of Bar Presidents luncheon at the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco this August. Eligible bar programs are those that address participation and advancement of lawyers of color, women lawyers, LGBTQ lawyers, lawyers with disabilities and other lawyers from underrepresented communities. Program results should be measurable and replicable by others. All submissions will be judged by a panel that will include members of the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services and representatives from several national affinity bars. The [nomination form](#) is due by June 7.



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