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## What's Your Membership Culture?

### Want More Engagement? Understand Your Association's Membership Culture

Every association has a certain membership culture, and at professional associations, this culture often stems from personality traits, habits, and other factors pertaining to the profession that the association serves. For example, in her current position as executive director of an association for emergency physicians, Beth Brooks has found that her volunteers will do great work but will not turn it in until the day it is due, because they "triage" their association work along with everything else. At [Associations Now](#), Brooks shares some insights that can help you understand and work with your bar's membership culture.

### 7 Traits that all Emotionally Intelligent Leaders Share

It takes emotional intelligence to be a great leader, and especially one who helps others gracefully manage conflict rather than always avoiding it. Marcel Schwantes, founder and chief human officer at Leadership from the Core, believes there are seven attributes that are present in all leaders who have high emotional intelligence. Some of these are self-confidence, assertiveness, and integrity. What are the other four, and how are all seven apparent in a leadership scenario? Find out at [Inc.](#)

### Are Changes in Character and Fitness Tests Enough to Reduce Mental Health Stigma?

The New York State Bar Association is looking into whether the state's bar application should be changed in ways that might help law students and new law grads feel less afraid to seek mental health treatment. Meanwhile, pending legislation would prohibit the State Bar of California from inquiring into or considering an applicant's medical records, even if those records are public. Lawyer and writer Megan Zavieh applauds these and other developments that could decrease the stigma surrounding mental illness in the legal profession. But are they enough? At [Attorney at Work](#), Zavieh shares some of her own experiences as a law student and young lawyer, highlights some recent information about lawyer depression and suicide rates, and calls for more systemic change.

### State Bar of Texas President Announces Plans to Decrease Hassles, Make Lawyers' Lives Easier

New State Bar of Texas President Randy Sorrels plans to focus his term on efforts to make lawyers' everyday lives easier. During his inaugural speech, one idea that got a lot of applause was to establish a central portal where a lawyer can send a letter announcing an upcoming vacation and have it recognized by courts in every county, rather than needing to navigate a different system for each county in which the lawyer may have cases. Sorrels also wants to work toward greater consistency in e-filing and make it easier for lawyers to receive court continuances when they are on family leave. In an interview at [Texas Lawyer](#), Sorrels offers more details about these plans.



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