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Associations in an Era of Distrust

Facts vs. 'Fake News': Building Trust in a Time of Skepticism

"Fake news" may be a bit of a hot-button term, but there's no mistaking the point that we live in an era of rapidly eroding trust, where almost anything put forward as fact is immediately up for intense debate. According to one study, Americans' trust in non-government organizations, business, media, and government slipped a collective 37 points between 2017 and 2018. For associations, writes Mark Athitakis, the problem is that they are perceived as authorities (not a good thing these days) and are "in the business of selling trust." At [Associations Now](#), Athitakis shares highlights from ASAE Foundation research on how to build and maintain trust in this challenging environment.

ABA, 3 Other Legal Groups Call for Independent Immigration Court System

Earlier this month, the ABA and three other legal organizations sent a letter to Congress, urging the creation of an immigration court system outside the control of the U.S. Department of Justice. The presidents of the ABA, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the National Association of Immigration Judges wrote that establishing this system would "protect and advance America's core values of fairness and equality by safeguarding the independence and impartiality of the immigration court system, while ensuring the timely adjudication of cases." [ABA Journal](#) has more information about what may be the first time that these four organizations came together to call for congressional action.

Lawyer Wellness as a Business Opportunity? How to Evaluate the New Tools

One outcome of the mental health pledge that the ABA initiated last year: A "cottage industry" has developed to offer well-being services for lawyers, according to an article at [law.com](#). It's important, experts say, for lawyers and law firms to carefully evaluate these services and to understand exactly what is being offered, and by whom. For example, coaching is different from mental health treatment, which would require a licensed clinical professional. But with a few caveats, the plethora of wellness services now available can help law firms fulfill the ABA pledge and help lawyers feel better. What apps and other services are out there, and how do they work?

New Form of Legal Tech Helps Keep Data Safe and Compliant

Much has been written about the trend toward more automation and artificial intelligence in the legal profession and industry. But none of that technology is helpful if the data that is produced does not adhere to the complex laws and policies regarding security and access. A firm called Immuta focuses not on drafting memos but on automating the processes of checking and following those data-related rules. [Fast Company](#) offers some insights from Immuta's chief privacy officer and legal engineer, and notes that "legal engineer" might be a title we hear more often, as the business of legal tech advances even further.

July-August Bar Leader Looks at Bars' Response to Opioid Crisis

The *July-August 2019 issue of Bar Leader* came out last week, with two articles on how some bars are addressing the opioid epidemic and its effects on communities, court systems, and lawyers and judges themselves. Also in this issue: an interview with several chief staff executives about the benefits of a strategic mindset, and a look at creative ways that some bars show that they appreciate their staff.



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