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Get Up to Date on all the Potential Changes to Lawyer Regulation

Take a State-by-State Look at Changes in Lawyer Regulation

You may have read, including here in Bar Leader Weekly, about the State Bar of California's Task Force on Access Through Innovation in Legal Services, which was appointed in response to a report by Indiana University law professor William Henderson. But perhaps you're seeking additional context, as well as a comprehensive overview of regulatory changes being considered or implemented in various states and at the national level, with the intention of easing barriers to legal service. At the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism's [2Civility website](#), the commission's executive director, Jayne Reardon, takes a deep dive into what she calls "lawyer re-regulation."

ABA Files Amicus Brief in Patent Law Case Involving Access to Justice

Last week, the ABA filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in a case called *Peter v. NantKwest Inc.* The case concerns how to interpret the phrase "all the expenses of the proceedings" in a provision of U.S. patent law. For almost 200 years, according to the brief, this was understood to pertain only to travel and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office when its attorneys defend the office in litigation. However, the U.S. PTO recently interpreted that phrase to mean that NantKwest, an immunotherapy company, was required to pay expert fees and attorney fees that resulted from asserting its patent claim. The ABA wrote that this interpretation would mean that patent applicants' wealth "would determine their access to the pathway to justice." [ABA Journal](#) has more details about the case and the amicus brief.

Is Your Board Bored? A Few Easy Ways to Rekindle Their Interest

It's not always easy to serve on a board and stay motivated?or even alert. After all, writes Kelly Medwick, executive vice president of business development at Firespring, would *you* like to sit through two-plus hours spent discussing one issue after another? The good news, she writes at [Nonprofit Hub](#), is that there are some easy ways to make board meetings more interesting while still ensuring that the work gets done. From guest speakers to appetizers, and making it easy to keep in touch between meetings, find out what you can do to liven things up for your board.

Anniversary vs. Calendar: Which Renewal Cycle Is Better for You and Your Members?

Conventional wisdom says that an anniversary renewal cycle based on the date when someone joins is more member-centric than a calendar cycle based on the bar's fiscal year. For one thing, members really dislike it when they join midway through the year but have to pay for a full 12 months. But is anniversary renewal always the way to go? Not if you have a small membership team that then has to devote most of its time to managing multiple renewal cycles all year long, says Elizabeth Weaver Engel, CAE. Are there some ways to automate the process, and are there times when the calendar renewal cycle actually serves members better? Learn more at [Spark Consulting's blog](#).



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