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The Nationwide Impact of the *Fleck* Ruling

Will Ruling in *Fleck v. Wetch* Affect Similar Texas Case *McDonald v. Sorrels*?

Those who have been following the recent challenges to mandatory bar structure may be keenly aware that every new ruling can play a role in the cases that are still pending. For example, last month's Eighth Circuit ruling in *Fleck v. Wetch* (pertaining to the State Bar Association of North Dakota) may be relevant to the similar case involving the State Bar of Texas, *McDonald v. Sorrels*. In a new court filing, the lawyer representing the defendants in the Texas case argues that the *Fleck* ruling is persuasive in its determination that the U.S. Supreme Court's 2018 decision in *Janus v. AFSCME* does not overrule the precedent previously set by *Keller v. State Bar of California*. [Texas Lawyer](#) has more information about the recent court filing and about where things stand with *McDonald*.

Lawyers' Use of Smartphones, Other Devices May Pose a Mental Health Risk

According to recent statistics, people average 24 hours per week on the internet and three to four hours per day on smartphones, which they check an average of 150 times per day. And those figures are for people in general, writes Chris Ritter, director of the Texas Lawyers Assistance Program?lawyers may be using screens of various types at a higher rate than the general population, he believes. Factor in some other recent studies on the negative impact of screen time on mental health, and it becomes apparent that lawyers may have a real problem with their smartphones and other devices, Ritter says. In [an article](#) at the State Bar of Texas website, he gathers sobering data from a variety of sources and makes practical suggestions for how lawyers and others can tame their screen use and reclaim their time.

Big News for Legal Tech as Clio Announces Major Investment, Well-Known New Board Member

Cloud computing management company Clio made two major announcements last week: a \$250 million Series D funding, and the addition of Avvo founder Mark Britton to its board of directors. This investment is one of the largest ever in legal tech, writes Robert Ambrogi at [LawSites](#), and it's the single largest investment for a Canadian company. The investment is from two growth equity firms, one of which has also invested in Airbnb, Expedia, Facebook, Fandango, LinkedIn and Netflix, and in the law-related companies Avvo (which Britton sold last year) and LegalZoom. What could these recent developments mean for the future of legal tech?

In Response to Hurricane Dorian, The South Carolina Bar Spotlights Disaster Preparedness Resources

Last week, after it created a humanitarian crisis in part of the Bahamas, Hurricane Dorian progressed north, striking coastal areas along the eastern seaboard. In light of this natural disaster, the South Carolina Bar is highlighting its disaster preparedness handbook, available as an immediate download or as a copy by request to the bar. The [web page](#) that links to the handbook also has links to a variety of other resources; some are specific to hurricanes, but many others can be used to help plan for any kind of emergency or

disaster.

Board Catalyst Shorts: Complimentary Access

Last year, the Division for Bar Services launched Board Catalyst Shorts, a series of board training videos you can share with your board members. We'd like to offer you complimentary access to the videos for two weeks so you can explore how you might use them to enrich your governance training. Each video is 5-12 minutes long and is a practical take from past bar presidents and executive directors on foundational board topics. Preview video clips and see the full lineup [here](#).

Contact Joanne O'Reilly via [email](#) by Friday, September 13 to begin your free trial. You will have access to the videos through September 27. If you'd like to continue your access to the videos after that date, you won't need to do anything further. We will send you an invoice for access through August 31, 2020. The cost is \$120 for the year. If you do not wish to continue your access, contact Joanne O'Reilly before September 27 to cancel your subscription.



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