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More States Look into Nonlawyer Co-Ownership, Limited License Legal Technicians

Arizona Task Force Recommends Ending Restrictions on Nonlawyer Co-Ownership

On October 4, the Arizona Task Force on the Delivery of Legal Services published its report, including the recommendation that the state's supreme court end restrictions on nonlawyer co-ownership of law firms, in an effort to increase access to justice. [Bloomberg BigLaw Business](#) notes that removing state bar Rule 5.4 would open the door to the "Big Four" accounting firms that have long sought a toehold in the U.S. legal market. "A sentiment that resounded within the workgroup was that lawyers have the ethical obligation to assure legal services are available to the public," the 157-page report states, "and that if the rules of professional conduct stand in the way of making those services available, then the rules should be changed." Learn more about the task force's other recommendations, dissenting views, next steps, and possible implications for other states.

Oregon State Bar Board Approves Recommendations to Create LLLT-Type Designation, Allow Bar Exam Without a Law Degree

Late last month, the Oregon State Bar's board of governors approved recommendations from two bar task forces: one to create a paraprofessional designation similar to Washington state's limited license legal technician, and the other to allow people without law degrees to sit for the bar exam. An individual licensed to provide limited legal advice without attorney supervision would need to be at least 18 years old, pass a national certification exam, and either have an associate's degree from an ABA-approved or institutionally accredited paralegal studies program or a JD or have 1,500 hours of experience as a paralegal under an attorney's supervision. The second approved proposal would allow the Oregon bar exam to be taken (with the goal of being fully licensed in that state) by a person with at least a bachelor's degree, good moral character, and who has completed a four-year mentorship program in a law office, legal department or court. [ABA Journal](#) has more details, including what needs to happen before these proposals are submitted to the Oregon Supreme Court.

Survival of the Fittest Series: How One Bar Is Radically Rethinking Revenue

For one New York bar association, the answer to the vexing question of how to entice Millennial lawyers to become dues-paying members is that you don't. As a matter of fact, Executive Director Eric Lesh says that in 20 years, LeGaL (the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York) might not have any dues-paying members at all—and that would be fine. Instead of focusing on financial support from lawyers themselves, explains the [New York Law Journal](#) in its "Survival of the Fittest" series, LeGaL has made the strategic decision to urge corporate sponsors to significantly increase their contributions. What is the reasoning behind making all bar events free, without then using them as a hook to drive dues revenue—and by how much has the bar's overall revenue increased in the eight years that this strategy has been in place?

Lawsuit Settlement to Result in Increased LSAT Accessibility for People with Visual Impairments

Within the next four years, the analytical reasoning portion of the LSAT will undergo some changes because of a lawsuit against the Law School Admission Council by a Michigan man who has a visual impairment and said this portion unfairly depends on test takers' ability to draw pictures and diagrams. The LSAC countered that not everyone uses diagrams on that portion and that some people find alternative ways to create diagrams, but the council agreed to a settlement with Angelo Binno and Shelesha Taylor, who also has a visual impairment and joined Binno as a co-plaintiff. Binno and Taylor will help the LSAC make the exam more accessible; a [Michigan Radio piece](#) shares what all parties have to say about the settlement and the work that lies ahead.



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