Issue 184 | December 17

Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Program Debuts in Utah

Utah Debuts Small but Growing Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Program
Utah now has its first cohort of licensed paralegal practitioners?a designation similar to limited license legal technicians in Washington state?and one of the state's supreme court justices predicts that the program will grow exponentially over the next few years. There are only four in the first group (and another four applicants set to take their exams in March), but Justice Deno Himonas anticipates that there will be 20 LPPs in the next two years, and 200 within the next decade. Licensees through this program can complete limited legal tasks in family law, debt collection, and landlord/tenant law, increasing access to justice in those practice areas. Above the Law has more information about how Utah's LPP program works, and how the state plans to entice more applicants.

Lawyers, Don't Forget to Be Social
What's one thing that law school does really well?and that lawyers then forget as soon as they settle into the routines of a busy practice? According to legal market analyst Jordan Furlong, law school, by its very nature, is social. Whether they like it or not, he explains, law students spend three years in close quarters with each other, taking classes, discussing legal topics, and socializing. But then as lawyers, they often burrow into their work in isolation, becoming lonely and losing important connections. At Canadian law magazine Slaw, Furlong prescribes some ways that lawyers can break those lonely habits?and yes, one of them is to join and be active in a bar organization.

Are There Ways that Changes in Regulations Can Benefit Lawyers, Too?
Many lawyers are alarmed over incursion into the profession by tech-focused companies, and as a result, are critical of proposals to change certain regulations. But Jayne Reardon, executive director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, believes some of the same changes that would allow some of these new players in would also help lawyers maintain a successful practice. For example, she writes, if a lawyer is not very tech savvy, could it be more productive for them to co-venture with a technologist, engineer, or other expert rather than struggling to get up to speed? At IAALS Blog, Reardon shares her thoughts on how some changes in regulations could help lawyers be more efficient and focus more of their time on the work that matters most.

3 Ways Magazines Are Winning: Mobile Web, Video, and Social Media
Even as a lot of traditional forms of media struggle in the digital age, magazines appear to be doing very well?by embracing mobile technology, social media, and video. Viewing and reading magazine content on mobile devices has increased by 122 percent in the past five years, and in that same period, the audience for magazines' video content grew by 425 percent. In terms of social media, magazines seem to do particularly well on Instagram, where consumers were 1.5 times more likely to engage with magazines than they were with non-magazine brands. These findings are from a recent report from MPA?The Association of Magazine Media (the acronym is from a previous name). Associations Now highlights some other data points that may be helpful in shaping your bar publication
Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services

Read the latest issue of Bar Leader Magazine