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Issue 185 | December 23

Court Win for State Bar of Wisconsin

Note: Bar Leader Weekly is on a brief hiatus and will not appear next week. The next issue will be sent on Tuesday, January 7.

U.S. District Court Dismisses One of Two Cases Against State Bar of Wisconsin

Earlier this month, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin dismissed a lawsuit against the State Bar of Wisconsin, which was filed in April 2019 by two state bar members as a challenge to the rules requiring membership for all attorneys in that state. Adam Jarchow and Michael Dean, represented by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, argued that, despite an annual *Keller* refund process, this requirement violated their rights of free speech and association because they disagree with bar activities and lobbying efforts. In dismissing this case, what did the judge say about *Janus* and how it relates to *Keller*? And what's the latest with a similar case in Wisconsin's Eastern District? Find out at wisbar.org.

New Report Reveals How Much Special Interest Groups Have Spent on State Supreme Court Races

It's long been known that special interest groups put a lot of money into state supreme court campaigns. Now, a report from the Brennan Center for Justice has quantified exactly how much: In 2017 and 2018, special interest groups contributed 27 percent of the \$39.7 million spent on state supreme court elections. The report notes that the source of the special interest money is often hidden or obscured, and that these groups tend to invest in attack ads pertaining to specific decisions by particular judges. [ABA Journal](#) has more details, including the names of some of the biggest-spending groups and what the Brennan Center says about the impact of this type of funding on judicial elections and independence.

What Happened to the 'Trump Bump' in Law School Enrollment?

After a small uptick in recent years that some experts called the "Trump bump"?individuals inspired to go to law school by disagreement with the current administration and the desire to make changes?the number of first-year law students declined by 0.3 percent this fall, according to an annual report by ABA-accredited law schools. But that doesn't mean applications were down: In fact, they rose by 3 percent. [Inside Higher Ed](#) shares more context, as well as a link to the reported information, which also covers tuition and living costs, and employment outcomes.

IAALS Appoints Advisory Committee for a Study of U.S. Businesses' and Individuals' Justice Needs

The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System has assembled an advisory committee to support its US Justice Needs project. In collaboration with The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law, IAALS is conducting research to assess the justice needs of businesses and people, at all income levels, in the United States. Once preliminary survey data is in, members of the advisory committee will provide insights prior to publication. Members of the committee include judges, lawyers, academics, and representatives from such organizations as Pew Research Center and Legal Services Corp.

An [IAALS blog post](#) lists the full committee and gives more information about this research.

What Makes for a Smarter, Better Team? More Women

While there is a limit?the worst-performing teams were either all-male or all-female?new research from *Harvard Business Review* found that in general, teams in which the majority are women work better than those with few women or an even split. Why? Professors Anita Woolley and Thomas Malone say it may be because women generally excel in these areas: communication and listening; constructive criticism; openness to other ideas; and exerting authority without being autocratic. Learn more about this research, and what the professors think it shows about team dynamics, at [ragan.com](#).



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