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How Tech Can Help Close the Justice Gap

Departing LSC President Shares 5 Big Ideas on Legal Tech, Access

In recent years, the Legal Services Corporation has taken a particular interest in the role that legal technology can play in increasing access to justice. Earlier this month, the LSC held its Innovations in Technology conference; at [LawSites](#), Robert Ambrogi shares five things that President James J. Sandman said are necessary in order to harness legal tech to close the justice gap. A week after that conference, Sandman (also a past president of the D.C. Bar) announced that he is stepping down, effective February 19. In [a subsequent post](#), Ambrogi recaps several ways that Sandman has championed legal tech for public good during his nine-year tenure.

State Bar of Texas Expands Fastcase Agreement to Include All Members

After six years of offering full Fastcase access for its solo and small-firm members and limited access for those in firms of 11 or more, the State Bar of Texas is now providing all of its approximately 105,000 members with free, unlimited access to this online legal research tool. At [Texas Bar Blog](#), both state bar President Randy Sorrels and Fastcase President Phil Rosenthal express their excitement about this newly expanded member benefit partnership.

State Bar of California Changes Rule to Allow Online-Only JD Programs

ABA-accredited law schools can only offer up to one-third of their credits online. But a recent rule change by the State Bar of California means that state-accredited law schools there can teach JD programs entirely online. Trinity Law School and John F. Kennedy University College of Law, both accredited by the state but not by the ABA, have filed major change applications to offer 100% online JDs. Meanwhile, three distance-learning law schools that are entirely unaccredited are now seeking California accreditation. Will this trend take off? and is it likely to spread beyond that state? Learn more at [ABA Journal](#).

How to Deal with a Negative Question? Neutralize It Before Answering

Why do you always get so defensive when you're asked something tough? That's actually a trick question? but the truth is, many people do feel threatened when they're asked a question that sounds negative and pointed. How can you answer it while also turning things around in your favor? Public speaking and media training experts Brad Phillips and Christina Hennessy say the key is to neutralize and reframe the question so you're answering its substance rather than reacting to its negativity. At their [Throughline blog](#), Phillips and Hennessy walk you through this process that can help you get off the hot seat.

2020 ABA Bar Leadership Institute Early Registration Ends January 31

Act quickly to lock in a discount on what some have called "the best thing the ABA does":

The early registration deadline for the 2020 ABA Bar Leadership Institute is January 31. BLI, the premier event held by the ABA Division for Bar Services and Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services, is designed to prepare incoming leaders of state, local, and special-focus bars to be courageous and collaborative stewards of their organizations. Be sure to join us March 11-13 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown. [Register today!](#)



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