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NYSBA Announces Formal Partnerships with International Bar Organizations

New York State Bar Association Enters Formal Agreements to Collaborate with International Bars

Last week, the New York State Bar Association announced a "global membership initiative" that involves establishing formal partnerships with as many international bar organizations as possible, as a way to collaborate, help each bar grow in membership, and advance the rule of law. NYSBA currently has memorandums of understanding with seven bars outside the United States, and its International Section, which has 65 chapters, has members from more than 100 countries. A [NYSBA news item](#) has more information, including the two most recent bars to sign on to this initiative.

Bar Officials in Nine States Sued over Rules on How to Name Law Firms

Earlier this month, a Utah-based law firm called LawHQ and its principal, Thomas Alvord, filed federal lawsuits against bar officials in the following nine states: Texas, Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Rhode Island, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, and Georgia. Each lawsuit argues that wholesale prohibitions against using trade names as law firm names are unconstitutional and based on professionalism standards that are now outdated. LawHQ is interested in opening offices in other areas of the country but learned that its name would violate rules in those nine states. [Texas Lawyer](#) shares more details about these lawsuits, including other instances where law firms have taken issue with naming rules, and how these states' rules compare with ABA Model Rules.

Why Don't Rural Practice Lawyers Stay Longer, and What Could Help?

Why don't more young lawyers continue practicing in remote areas after participating in a rural practice program? There are a number of reasons, but among the biggest are the culture shock of having to become part of a small-town community that may be completely unfamiliar, and the difficulty of making a living once the stipend from the program ends. What can help more lawyers successfully "launch" and remain in rural practices after that point? [ABA Journal](#) takes an unflinching look at the challenges for rural practice programs, and at what some are doing to overcome them.

Tennessee Supreme Court Institutes Permanent Disbarment, Doubles Maximum Suspension

In a move that garnered opposition from the Knoxville Bar Association and the Tennessee Bar Association, the Tennessee Supreme Court amended one of its rules so that any lawyer disbarment after July 1, 2020 will be permanent, and the maximum time that a lawyer can be suspended is 10 years. Prior to the amendments, disbarred Tennessee lawyers could apply to be reinstated after five years, and the maximum suspension was also five years. Why did the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee support these changes, and why did the two bars object to them? Find out at [Bloomberg Law](#).

State Bar of California Innovation Task Force Named as

Legal Rebels

Whether by those in favor of the group's proposals or by those who oppose them, the State Bar of California Task Force on Access Through Innovation in Legal Services has been called a lot of things. Now, [ABA Journal](#) has added the task force to the list it calls Legal Rebels. Learn more about the task force, its proposals (and the lively discussion that occurred while they were being prepared), and why some of its members were drawn to this work of putting everything on the table in hopes of increasing access to justice. Also on the latest list of Rebels: legal hackers, a tech-focused grant program from the Legal Services Corporation, and a project that travels the country to gather criminal justice data and press for reform.



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