



**Issue 194 | March 3**

## **State Bar of California Task Force on Access Through Innovation in Legal Services Recommendations Released**

### **State Bar of California ATILS Task Force Approves 8 Recommendations for Change**

Last week, the State Bar of California Task Force on Access Through Innovation in Legal Services (ATILS) approved eight recommendations that are now scheduled to go to the bar's board of trustees on March 12. According to [The Recorder](#), the recommendations include setting up a "regulatory sandbox" to test new approaches, but they stop short of calling for immediate changes that would allow for nonlawyer ownership of law firms; also, the task force opted for only a modest expansion of fee-sharing. The [bar's website](#) has the notice and agenda of the ATILS meeting, including links to full text of all eight recommendations.

### **Will Regulatory Changes Mean Big Problems for Big Law, Others?**

As task forces in California and elsewhere continue to study or recommend regulatory changes that are aimed at increasing access to justice, many bar leaders, Big Law partners, and others are expressing alarm and disagreement with many of the proposals. For some, the crux of the disagreement is potential erosion of professional values, while others in Big Law note that changes meant to impact individual consumers may also affect their work with organizational clients. [The American Lawyer](#) takes an in-depth look at all sides of these issues and at what some bars are doing to either advance, study, or oppose some of the possible changes.

### **Study: Worldwide, Fewer Teens Want to Be Lawyers Now Than in 2000**

It's a perennial question: "So, what do you want to be when you grow up?" According to a recently published survey of 15-year-olds by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the number of kids who say they aspire to be lawyers is continuing to fall. In the survey, conducted in 41 countries in 2018, 4.6 percent of girls said they wanted to be lawyers, compared with 6.2 percent in 2000. Among boys, 2.4 percent said they wanted to be lawyers, compared with 2.7 percent in 2000. What career goals are gaining ground, and what are some potential reasons for the decreased interest in law? Find out at [Big Law Business](#).

### **New York Becomes 11th State to Remove Mental Health Questions from Character and Fitness**

In what New York State Bar Association President Hank Greenberg called "a historic step forward," last week, that state's chief judge announced that mental health questions have been removed from the character and fitness portion of the state bar application, effective immediately. New York is now the eleventh state to remove this type of question. In November 2019, the bar's House of Delegates approved a working group that recommended that mental health questions be removed, in part because they had a chilling effect on law students' willingness to seek help with mental health issues. In her State of the Judiciary address, Chief Judge Janet DiFiore thanked NYSBA for raising this issue. A

[NYSBA news item](#) offers more details, including further context for this change.



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