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LegalMatch vs. the State Bar of California

Judge Denies State Bar of California's Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order Against LegalMatch.com

In a telephonic hearing last week, a California Superior Court judge denied the State Bar of California's motion for a temporary restraining order against online legal matching service LegalMatch. The bar said the company had failed to respond to a March 20 directive to cease operations until it had registered with the bar as a lawyer referral service. However, LegalMatch's chief operating officer declared to the court that she replied to the bar's directive on the same day that it was received, and that the company filed an application to register on March 31. In an email to [Bloomberg Law](#), the bar's general counsel noted that LegalMatch had not complied with the demand to cease operations while its application was pending, and that this was why the bar sought a temporary restraining order. What do some observers have to say about this case and what it means in terms of both protecting the public and encouraging access to justice?

Plaintiffs in Case Against State Bar of Texas Receive Dues Notices, Seek Status Conference

In the latest development regarding the *Janus*-citing case *McDonald v. Sorrels*, last week, three attorneys who are suing the State Bar of Texas asked a federal court whether they should set a hearing for a preliminary injunction to protect them from having to pay bar dues. The plaintiffs, Mark Pulliam, Josh Hammer, and Tony McDonald, noted that they had received their dues notices, with a June 1 deadline, which they view as coercing them into joining and funding the integrated bar in order to practice in Texas. [Texas Lawyer](#) has more information about this case, first filed in 2019, and about the recent request for a status conference.

Recent Data: Significant Drop in New Legal Matters, Consumers Think Lawyers Can't Help During COVID-19

Data released last week by legal tech company Clio helps illustrate the recent slowdown in the legal profession because of COVID-19. An analysis based on use of its practice management software found that the number of new legal matters being opened each week in the United States is down 40 percent compared with late February. In a separate survey conducted in April by Clio, 50 percent of consumers said they would likely delay seeking legal help until the COVID-19 crisis has subsided, and another 22 percent said they thought lawyers had entirely stopped providing legal services. [ABA Journal](#) shares additional figures, as well as some insights on how lawyers and law firms can help decrease some of the barriers that prevent clients from seeking their help.

Who Decides When the Bar Should Reopen Its Physical Space, And What Are Key Factors to Consider?

What factors should a nonprofit board and chief staff executive consider in deciding when to reopen? It starts, of course, with state and local law, and guidelines from health experts. But that's not where the discussion should end, according to [BoardSource](#): For example, when will schools reopen so that staff members with children can return to the office? What is the status of public transportation? And should you consult with the bar's attorney and

insurance provider, to understand and manage potential risks? Learn more about these and other implications to think about?and the roles that the board and the CEO should play in making this decision.



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