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Issue 220 | September 9

The Lasting Impact of Regulatory Change

Will Regulatory Changes in Arizona Result in More Consumer-Friendly Legal Services?

Last week, we told you about some sweeping regulatory changes that were approved by the Arizona Supreme Court, pertaining to the legal profession. What could those changes? especially the one that will eliminate restrictions on outside ownership of law firms? mean once they take effect in January 2021? While some have said this could invite the Big Four accounting firms fully into the U.S. legal market, others believe the biggest shift could be toward a more consumer-focused business model. At [law.com](#), find out what some observers think could happen next. One expert who is thinking primarily about the shift toward what he calls "PeopleLaw" is law professor Bill Henderson. He expands on this idea at his [Legal Evolution blog](#), envisioning Walmart-style "everyday low prices" on legal services?and sharing his hopes for consumers in Arizona and elsewhere.

Two Law Schools in Northeast Ohio Explore Possible 'Unified' Model

In what would create the largest law school in Ohio, Cleveland State University and University of Akron are exploring a partnership that would allow students to take classes online and in person at both campuses. A working group drawn from both law schools, whose campuses are about 40 miles apart, is currently in discussion, after which any resulting plan would need to be approved by the ABA and by the state. At [Cleveland.com](#), learn more about this possible partnership?and how the two schools are already working together this semester.

Checking in with Some of the First COVID-19 Diploma Privilege Candidates

In April, long before many states started grappling with what to do about their July 2020 bar exam, the Utah Supreme Court announced a temporary order to allow diploma privilege. One of the requirements was 360 hours of supervised practice to be completed by December 31. Recently, [ABA Journal](#) checked in with three successful diploma privilege candidates who have already completed this requirement and been admitted to practice or who expect to reach these milestones soon. What did they have to say about the pluses and minuses of skipping the bar exam, what they've learned during their supervised practice, and whether they think diploma privilege should be made a permanent option?

Have You Submitted Your 2020 Benchmarks Response?

On August 21, executive directors received an email from the ABA Division for Bar Services with a request to complete the 2020 State and Local Bar Benchmarks Survey. If your bar responded in 2019, the email contained a link with those responses prepopulated to minimize the time commitment to answer. Given the challenging times and everyone's limited resources, we are publishing an abbreviated version of the Benchmarks Survey this year, only focusing on membership-related data. We are also including questions on how the pandemic has affected your bar association's operations and membership. We will provide those results to all bar associations later this fall. As in the past, we are aiming for 100% participation for state and major local bar associations. The deadline to submit responses is September 16. If you missed the message, please contact [Joanne O'Reilly](#).



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