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The Pandemic's Impact on Calls to Lawyer Assistance Programs

Lawyer Assistance Helplines See Decline in Calls During Pandemic

Contrary to expectations, the number of calls to some lawyer assistance helplines decreased dramatically in 2020—but it's not because lawyers were feeling better. Instead, many experts believe, it's because lawyers gave their emotional health a lower priority than usual as they coped with the pandemic and its many challenges. Also, newer virtual programs were a more appealing option for many. [Bloomberg Law](#) gathers data and insights from lawyer assistance programs, experts, and surveys of the profession. How soon will we be able to gauge the full impact of COVID-19 on lawyer well-being?

Biden Asks ABA to Begin Judicial Evaluations After He Makes Nominations

In an effort to speed up the confirmation process, President Joe Biden has asked the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary to start its evaluations after he makes nominations, not before. Except for presidents George W. Bush and Donald Trump, every president since Dwight D. Eisenhower has asked the ABA to evaluate nominees before they make their nominations. According to ABA President Patricia Lee Refo, the Biden administration and the Senate Judiciary Committee also made it clear that the ABA evaluations are a helpful part of the nomination process. Learn more at [ABA Journal](#).

IAALS Names Professor David Yellen as Chief Executive Officer

IAALS, the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver, has announced that Professor David Yellen will be its next chief executive officer, starting June 1. Yellen, currently a visiting professor at Cornell Law School, also served as law school dean at Hofstra University and Loyola University Chicago, president of Marist College, and counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. IAALS, which focuses on research-based reform for the civil justice system, says Yellen was chosen in part because of his reputation for innovation and creativity. [IAALS Blog](#) has more details.

Are You Doing Personal Branding Wrong? Tom Peters Suggests 5 Ways to Get It Right

Tom Peters, the management guru who sparked the personal branding trend almost 25 years ago, has a problem with how his *Fast Company* article has been interpreted. It was never supposed to be about self-promotion and cozying up to superiors, he says; instead, personal branding is about distinguishing yourself more organically through what you do and whom you know. In a new article at [Fast Company](#), Peters sets the record straight and outlines five strategies to help you build your personal brand today.

2020 State and Local Bar Benchmarks Survey: Membership Update Now Available

Great news! The 2020 State and Local Bar Benchmarks Survey: Membership Update is now

available from the ABA Division for Bar Services. More than 140 state and local bars participated in this survey, providing data on membership trends, member dues/fees and member benefits. Use the information to bring your officers and boards up to speed on trends and compare your bar with its peers. [Order your copy today](#), and don't forget: If your bar participated in the survey, you're eligible for a 40 percent discount. All respondents received a discount code; if you need yours to be sent again, please [email Joanne O'Reilly](#). As an additional thank-you, this week, all respondents will receive a complimentary visual report of the most compelling findings from the 2020 Benchmarks Survey.



[Learn more about the ABA Division for Bar Services](#)

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