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LegalZoom Given Green Light in Arizona

Arizona Approves LegalZoom for Alternative Business Structure, California Lawmaker Doubts Legal Paraprofessional Program

Last week, the Arizona Supreme Court approved LZ Legal Services LLC, a unit of LegalZoom, as an alternative business structure (ABS). In August 2020, the court scrapped Arizona's version of ABA Model Rule 5.4, creating a path for lawyers and nonlawyers to co-own businesses that offer legal services under the ABS arrangement. A representative from LegalZoom says the approved unit will now be able to offer limited legal services to small businesses and individuals in Arizona and the company will also be able to create new opportunities for Arizona lawyers. [Reuters](#) shares more details, including how many entities are now approved for ABS licensure and what other companies were approved at the same time as LegalZoom. Just a few days after the State Bar of California Board of Trustees voted to seek public comment on a proposal to establish a legal paraprofessional program, a key lawmaker announced that he is against the idea, at least at this time, and does not expect this proposal to be included in the 2023 fee bill. "There's already a lack of trust with the bar that we are trying to overcome, and I would like to overcome that," said Assembly Judiciary Committee Chairman Mark Stone (D-Scotts Valley), alluding to the recent controversy involving the bar's lawyer discipline system and fallen trial attorney Tom Girardi. What objections have some others made regarding this proposal, and how did Ruben Duran, chair of the board of trustees, respond? Learn more at [The Recorder](#).

Beyond Counting: New DEI Initiative Suggests Practical Steps for Law Firms, Practice Groups

Big law firms often promote diversity, equity, and inclusion via promises made by firm leaders—but it's practice group leaders and individual partners who make the decisions that can either make or break careers. That's why Do Something Hard, an initiative by legal diversity organizations Diversity Lab and chIPs, offers firms specific actions that they can take both firmwide and within practice groups. One firmwide commitment, aimed at ensuring that underrepresented attorneys aren't expected to do most of the DEI work, is to consider up to 50 hours of diversity work as billable hours. At the practice group level, one of the commitments is that at least one diverse partner serves in a lead role for 50 percent of new matters, cases, and relationships, and receives equitable credit for this business development. Most of the 50 participating firms chose actions at both levels. What are some of the other actions, and how are they designed to help make a real difference? Find out at [The American Lawyer](#).

State Bar of Texas Board of Directors Approves Changes to Comply with Circuit Court Opinion

Late last month, at its quarterly meeting, the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors approved rule and policy changes to help bring the mandatory bar into compliance with the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals panel opinion in *McDonald v. Longley*. In part, the court opinion said that the bar's procedures for refunds to members who object to certain uses of their dues were not sufficient. The changes address that process and also include updates to the bar's budgeting and legislative processes. On September 30, the bar filed a summary of the approved changes with the district court as part of the case's remedies phase. [Texas](#)

[Bar Blog](#) has links to the changes, a case timeline and summary of similar cases in other states, and all the filings in this case.

September-October Issue of Bar Leader Shares Updates, Resources on Regulatory Change

Struggling to keep up with the latest developments on the regulatory front? The [September-October 2021 issue of Bar Leader](#) can help. Find out what's happening with sandboxes, alternative business structures, and other ways some jurisdictions are making regulatory changes aimed at increasing legal access and innovation.

To Meet Urgent Needs, ABA President Reggie Turner Asks Each U.S. Lawyer for 10 Hours of Pro Bono

ABA President Reggie Turner is calling on lawyers across the country to each provide 10 hours of pro bono service over the rest of this year. "We face an extraordinary need for pro bono on multiple fronts," Turner says, "including evictions, refugee assistance, and disaster relief." Visit [ProBonoNow.org](https://www.probononow.org) to find service opportunities that match any practice area, interest, and availability.



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