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Florida Bar Board of Governors Rejects Legal Lab Proposal

Florida Bar Board of Governors Unanimously Rejects Recommendation to Establish Legal Lab for Testing New Ways to Provide Legal Services

Movement toward a "sandbox"-type structure to test new ways of providing legal service in Florida appears to have come to a halt: On December 2, The Florida Bar Board of Governors unanimously voted to reject a recommendation to establish a "legal lab" in that state. Last month, the board unanimously rejected two other recommendations also made by the Florida Supreme Court Special Committee to Improve the Delivery of Legal Services: to allow nonlawyer ownership in law firms, and to allow fee splitting between lawyers and nonlawyers. At the December meeting, the board did approve a stripped-down version of another special committee recommendation; rather than a broader change to allow Florida Registered Paralegals to provide more legal services under lawyer supervision, the board approved a board member's recommendation to establish a pilot program within one legal aid organization. A [Florida Bar news item](#) has more details about which recommendations were rejected, which were approved, and the reasons some board members gave for their decisions.

In Search for Top Talent, Plaintiffs Firms Take More Proactive Approach to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As the legal profession works toward increased diversity, equity, and inclusion, some say that the plaintiffs bar is a holdout, with many plaintiffs firms still operating as "old boys' clubs" where it's sufficient to have one woman or one person of color at the table. But now, some plaintiffs firms are taking direct actions, such as hiring from historically Black colleges and universities, doing more on-campus interviews and other types of engagement at law schools in general, and establishing fellowships and mentoring programs to help attract and retain diverse talent. At [National Law Journal](#), leaders from plaintiffs firms speak candidly about some gaps in their previous approach to DEI and about the kind of work they're now doing instead.

New Seminar Program in Hawaii Trains Diverse Law Students for Future Leadership Roles

Sometimes, those who can recruit diverse candidates for leadership positions say that they would love to do so, but that they can't find any who are well prepared for those roles. A new seminar program at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law tackles this reasoning (or excuse) head on, training students who are underrepresented in the legal profession to eventually take on leadership roles within law or any other field. The Island Leadership Lab, which recently completed its pilot and will resume during the fall 2022 semester, is the brainchild of Dean Camille Nelson, with seed money from the Hawaii Leadership Forum. At [law.com](#), Nelson explains how the lab program works, why it's needed, and whether she thinks it can be replicated at other law schools.

13 Tips to Help You Build a Better Survey

Are you tired of crafting great, thorough surveys, only to get back very few responses?and even fewer that are helpful? It may be time to rethink your survey design. Start with the

end in mind, only ask about things you can and will act on, and keep it short, advises Sue Horner, president of corporate writing consulting firm Get It Write. At ragan.com, Horner shares these and 10 more tips for how to design a survey that asks exactly what you want to ask, omits any clutter, and yields the kind of responses that can help inform your decisions.

U.S. District Court Issues Final Judgment in *McDonald* Case Against State Bar of Texas

Last week, U.S. District Court Judge Lee Yeakel issued a final judgment in *McDonald v. Longley*, a First Amendment case against the mandatory State Bar of Texas. In September, after a Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals panel decision in this case, the bar's board of directors approved some changes to bar rules and policies. The final judgment prohibits the bar from "using Plaintiffs' mandatory dues to support lobbying or legislative activities (including such activities by the Texas Access to Justice Commission) seeking substantive changes to Texas law unrelated to regulating the legal profession or improving the quality of legal services." Learn more at [Texas Bar Blog](#).

Kentucky Bar Association President Shares Ways to Help Tornado Victims

We are deeply saddened by the devastation and loss caused by the tornados that ripped through parts of the Midwest and South this weekend. Please read [this message](#) from the president of the Kentucky Bar Association to learn how you can help those impacted by this tragedy.



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