



Issue 288 | February 23

Bar Association/Law School Partnerships Gain Steam

Philadelphia Bar Association, Indiana State Bar Association, Other Bars Partner with Law Schools to Help Students, New Law Grads

Bars and law schools share an important priority: making sure that each graduating class of new lawyers is ready to practice and is welcomed into the legal community. While partnerships between bars and law schools are nothing new, in recent years, the idea seems to be gaining steam. The most recent such partnership is likely one that was announced earlier this month, when the Philadelphia Bar Association said it had made the law school at Temple University an institutional member of the bar—an arrangement it already had in place with the law school at Drexel University. Meanwhile, the Indiana State Bar Association is four years into a partnership with law schools at two Indiana University campuses and at Notre Dame. What is the nature of each partnership, and what are some other state and local bars doing to reach out to law schools, law students, and new law grads? Find out at law.com.

Citing Serious Gap, Oregon Lawmakers Approve Additional \$12.8 Million Toward Indigent Criminal Defense

In response to what one state representative calls "a civil rights crisis," lawmakers in Oregon have agreed to allocate an additional \$12.8 million to the Office of Public Defense Services, to pay for the equivalent of 36 full-time public defense attorneys, as well as support staff and money for criminal defense investigations. It's expected that the additional resources will be specifically directed toward counties where more than 100 indigent criminal defendants don't have a public defender. According to a recent report from the ABA, Oregon has around 1,300 fewer public defenders than it needs. [OPB](#) (Oregon Public Broadcasting) takes an in-depth look at the state's gap in indigent defense and at this temporary measure to help close it.

News from 2022 ABA Midyear Meeting: Mary Smith Set to Become First Native American ABA President, for 2023-2024 Term

At the virtual 2022 ABA Midyear Meeting earlier this month, Illinois lawyer Mary Smith became the ABA's next president-elect nominee. Smith is all but certain to become president-elect at the close of the 2022 ABA Annual Meeting in August and to serve as president for 2023-2024. Smith, an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, is set to become the first Native American president of the ABA. She is vice chair and partner at the Veng Group in Chicago, a past president of the National Native American Bar Association and founder of the National Native American Bar Association Foundation. Other noteworthy leadership roles include serving in the White House from 1997 to 2001, as both associate counsel to President Clinton and associate director of policy planning for the Domestic Policy Council. [ABA Journal](#) shares more information about Smith, some of her remarks to the ABA House of Delegates, and news regarding other candidates for ABA leadership positions.

Well-Known Legal Tech Bloggers Announce Expansion with Launch of Directory to Help Guide Buying Decisions

Last week, attorney Bob Ambrogi and his son Ben Ambrogi—who have been covering the legal tech industry for more than 20 years at Bob's LawSites blog—announced that they are launching the LawNext Legal Technology Directory. The directory, which will start with around 400 listings from vendors who responded to a limited invitation, aims to help users make a legal tech buying decision by providing information about each product's features, pricing, screenshots, outside press coverage of the product (including at LawSites), and more. The new site largely arose from a partnership between the Ambrogis and the Justia legal marketplace. Why do the Ambrogis think they're well positioned to provide this type of directory, and how do they believe it differs from how buyers currently assess legal tech products? Learn more at [Legaltech news](#).



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

[Read the latest issue of Bar Leader Magazine](#)

{{AA_HTML Manual - Chicago Footer}}