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More Data Released from California Lawyers Association & District of Columbia Bar's Shared Research on Lawyer Mental Health

California Lawyers Association and District of Columbia Bar: Research Shows Connection Between Lawyers' Well-Being and How They Are Valued at Work

Last week, the California Lawyers Association and the District of Columbia Bar shared more findings from their joint research into lawyer mental health, substance use, and attrition from the profession—findings that were also published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Behavioral Sciences*. The two bars began this shared project in 2020; their latest round of research looked at the connection between what lawyers think their employers value most about them, and the mental and physical health of those lawyers. According to this research, the 62.4% of lawyers who reported feeling most valued for their personal or professional attributes were in the best health, the 27.5% who said they were most valued for attributes like productivity and responsiveness were in poorer health, and the 10.1% percent who said their employers didn't value them at all or didn't provide enough feedback were in the worst health. In [a news release](#) from the CLA, the researchers and the chief executives of both bars share their thoughts about these findings and their implications for legal employers and for the profession.

New Nonprofit Aims to Study, Help Reduce Harassment, Other Issues in Judicial Clerkships

New law school graduates who take on judicial clerkships enter "extraordinarily dangerous" workplaces where they "do not enjoy basic workplace protections and where judges are rarely, if ever, held accountable." That's according to Aliza Shatzman, who recently co-founded the nonprofit Legal Accountability Project after experiencing harassment during her own clerkship. In written testimony for a House Judiciary hearing in March 2022, Shatzman noted that there's a large power disparity between Senate-confirmed judges and their clerks. The purpose of the Legal Accountability Project will be to support clerks by gathering data about the scope of harassment, discrimination, and diversity issues they face and crafting effective solutions. Learn more at [Bloomberg Law](#).

Michigan Justice for All Commission Shares Achievements in 2021, Plans for 2022

Late last month, the Michigan Supreme Court Justice for All Commission released an annual report for 2021, detailing the progress it made in its first year and its plans for 2022. Led by the State Court Administrative Office, the State Bar of Michigan and the Michigan State Bar Foundation, the commission is focused on ensuring that the civil legal justice system is accessible and easy to navigate, understand, and use. Its work in 2021 included developing training to help courts assist self-represented litigants and supporting adoption of the requirement that every court in the state submit case data to the Judicial Data Warehouse. The purpose of this requirement was to facilitate transparency, standard treatment across courts, and the availability of complete statewide data. What does the commission expect to achieve this year? Find out at [Mlive](#).

After Killing of Wisconsin Former Judge, ABA President

Reginald Turner Calls for Increased Judicial Security

Earlier this month in Wisconsin, former Juneau County Circuit Court Judge John Roemer was killed in his home, allegedly by a suspect who was displeased with the outcome of a court case or cases. In a statement about the killing, ABA President Reginald Turner noted that in 2021, the U.S. Marshals Service reported more than 4,500 threats against the judiciary, which is five times more than in 2015. "The ABA calls on Congress to act to improve the security of our judges with stronger measures and increased funding," Turner said in [the statement](#). "Passage of the bipartisan Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act would enhance judicial security by restricting the disclosure and publication of judges' personally identifiable information."

New York City Public Defender Organizations See Increased Attrition, and Hourly Rates at Some Big Law Firms Reach New Heights

What happens when a strong job market and a chronic pattern of low pay combine? In the case of New York City's public defender organizations, the answer is that hundreds of staffers have left over the past year. For example, the Legal Aid Society—the city's largest provider of both civil and criminal legal service for indigent clients—has lost about 200 people over the past 12 months, or 10 percent of its staff. In the same period, Brooklyn Defender Services has lost 27% of its staff, and the New York County Defender Services has lost 24%. What does this mean for the lawyers still working at these organizations, how do their salaries compare with those of other lawyers in New York, and what efforts are under way to help decrease the attrition rate? The [New York Times](#) takes an in-depth look. At the other end of the pay scale, hourly rates at some of the nation's top law firms are now approaching or surpassing \$2,000, a new high that corresponds with increased demand over the past two years. [Bloomberg Law](#) identifies some of the big firms that are part of this trend and probes the question of whether lawyers at these firms provide sufficient value to justify their rates.



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