



**Issue 404 | November 6**

## **How New Jersey Defeated Judicial Partisanship**

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Decades-old traditions have made New Jersey one of the most cooperative judiciaries in the nation. In the last two years, 87% of the New Jersey Supreme Court's decisions were unanimous. And despite Democrats holding a 4-3 advantage over Republicans on the court, only two decisions were split along party lines. Why is this? Numerous unwritten rules, many of which stem from the 1947 state constitutional overhaul. Most notably, the maximum number of supreme court justices from a single party is limited to four. Also, similar to the federal "blue slip" process, before appointing a state judge, governors secure approval from each state senator in that judge's district. [Bloomberg Law](#) examines this unique approach to the judiciary and how it could serve as a model for other states.

### **Law Schools Need to Embrace AI**

The legal profession is undergoing a transformation driven by AI and data-driven technologies. Harry Borovick, general counsel at Luminance and a lecturer on legal tech, shares insights on how law schools can adapt to this new landscape. First, AI education should be integrated across all legal subjects, preparing students to use AI tools in real-world scenarios. Second, a "technology-agnostic" approach should be adopted, focusing on foundational AI principles rather than specific tools. Lastly, law schools should integrate technological proficiency into their student assessment. Read more of Borovick's thoughts at [Above the Law](#).

### **Compensation Models Reveal Differences in Job Satisfaction**

Partner compensation at large law firms has reached record highs, now averaging \$1.4 million—a 26% increase since 2022—due largely to higher client billing rates and originations, according to a survey by Major, Lindsey & Africa. The [ABA Journal](#) writes that equity partners' earnings rose to an average of \$1.9 million, while nonequity partners averaged \$558,000. Surprisingly, the survey found high partner satisfaction regardless of billable hours, as compensation is now more closely linked to business origination. However, younger lawyers expressed greater dissatisfaction with their workload, with newer associates' bonuses more often tied to billable hours. [Bloomberg](#) explores how these compensation models impact job satisfaction.

### **Why Associations Should Think Like Startups**

"Think like a startup" is not a phrase often heard in association board meetings. However, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) took on that challenge when looking to expand their services and revenue sources. To achieve this growth, they formalized their innovation process. AAVSB partnered with Spark Consulting to create a systematic approach to structuring their innovation process, implementing lean startup methodology. Read more about their process on the [ASAE website](#).



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