

Reassessing the Value of Judicial Evaluations

Issue 60, April 18th, 2017

Monroe County Bar Scraps Judicial Evaluations in Favor of Voter Education

Your bar association spends hours on a careful judicial evaluation process to tell voters how well qualified each candidate is. But then, the two political parties discourage the candidates from participating. And those voters who don't skip the judicial portion of the ballot choose based on political party, ethnic background, TV commercials, and countless factors other than the bar's rating. How do you fight this? For the Monroe County Bar Association, the answer — in one sense — was "We don't." The bar recently adopted a task force's recommendation to do away with the evaluations and instead focus on educating the public about each candidate. In a message on the bar's website, President Mark J. Moretti explains this new approach and how it came about.

What Helps Solos Manage the Business Side of Running a Law Firm?

Ask many solo lawyers what their biggest challenge is, and chances are, you'll hear something about running a business. After all, practice management is often not part of the law school curriculum, and learning on the job can be an expensive proposition if "the job" is really just you. Hartfordbusiness.com looks at how some solo lawyers are managing to keep themselves afloat. Also highlighted: ABA Blueprint, the recently released suite of products and services for solos and small firms.

Lawyers, Don't Wait for the Perfect Time to Seek Treatment for Addiction, Mental Illness

Is there ever a "good time" for a busy lawyer to step back in order to pursue treatment for an addiction or mental illness? Well, no ... but there are certainly "less bad" times — such as before a major consequence occurs. That's according to Patrick Krill, founder of a behavioral health consulting firm focused on the legal profession. It's an unfortunate fact of the profession that lawyers often fear stepping away from their practice, writes Krill in an advice column at law.com. But the good news is, depending on the nature and severity of the problem, getting help might not require as much time off as you think. What other advice does Krill have for a lawyer who needs help, or who is concerned for a friend or colleague?

7 Ways to Get More Members to Read Your Emails

When it comes to email from your association, the short answer to the question of what members want is probably "Less of it." The long answer has the potential to dramatically change how effectively you communicate with and market to your members. At AssociationSuccess.org, Lisa Campo spotlights seven things members "desperately" want from your emails, including lots of options to help them specify what types of messages they wish to receive, and messages that directly cater to their interests. What else is on her list, and how can you use them to make it more likely that your emails get read?