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# CALIFORNIA BAR

## eJOURNAL

July 2013

### State Bar begins MCLE compliance audit of 4,700 attorneys

In a matter of days, the State Bar will launch its largest-ever compliance audit for Minimum Continuing Legal Education. Read here for information and tips in case you are one of the attorneys selected whose last names begin with the letters A through H.

### Budget restores modest sum to California courts

After years of devastating budget cuts, the California courts will receive an additional \$63 million in 2013-14. But it won't be enough to prevent continued courthouse closures throughout the state.

### From the president



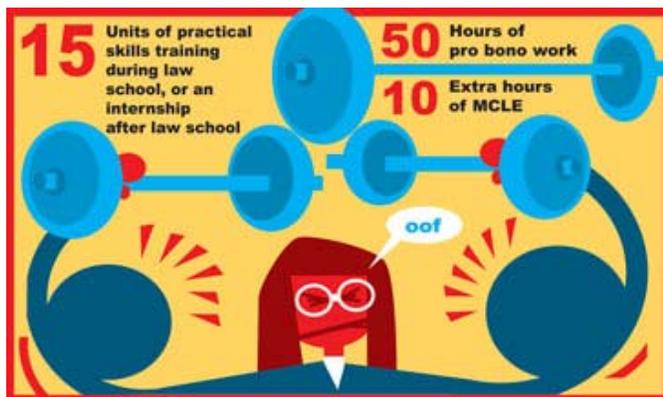
Patrick M. Kelly says it's time to add civility language to the oath taken by every California attorney.



Does your last name start with the letters N through Z? You're up next for MCLE compliance. Take this month's test and earn one hour of credit.

Read [Ethical Enforcement of Attorney's Liens – Avoiding Traps for the Unwary](#)

- [CLE Calendar](#)
- [You Need to Know](#)



### Task force finalizes practical skills proposal for new lawyers

After more than a year of drafts, revisions and public hearings, a task force has sent to the State Bar's Board of Trustees a far-reaching proposal geared towards improving the practical skills of new lawyers. The proposal would require extra skills training, MCLE and service to pro bono or modest means clients.

### Immigration reform debate has attorneys on alert for fraud

Although Congress is still shaping a workable immigration reform package, experts say communities are already seeing signs of what could develop into a torrent of immigration fraud in California.

### Panel gives nod to limited license idea



A State Bar working group has recommended further study of a limited license to practice law program in order to boost access to legal services for low- and moderate-income Californians. Officials could decide later this month what, if any, steps to take next.

### Age-related competence problems can be tricky to recognize, diagnose

A State Bar working group exploring the challenges facing senior lawyers and their clients discussed continuing education courses, assessment tests and peer counseling as tools to help attorneys recognize how age-related health problems affect their work.

### Ethics Byte – Client relationships have limited shelf life

Legal ethics expert Diane Karpman explains the things that judges consider when they review disqualification motions made by former clients.

- [Trials Digest](#)

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August 2013

### U.S. Supreme Court term in review: The court affects all of us

UC Irvine professor Erwin Chemerinsky offers a roundup of the high court's major decisions of the past year, which affect each of us, often in the most important and intimate aspects of our lives.

### Board seeks public feedback on proposed MCLE changes

The future of legal education in California could include a wider array of choices and better quality courses, along with an increase in the number of hours required.

### From the president



Patrick M. Kelly and an array of guest columnists discuss the importance of lawyers as peacemakers.



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Read [Joint representation: ethical implications and challenges](#)

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### Laurel Kaufer: Peacemaker promotes nonviolence behind bars

Read an interview with a Los Angeles lawyer-mediator who answered a desperate plea from help for a woman at the maximum-security Valley State Prison in Chowchilla. The result was the Prison of Peace initiative that teaches inmates how to diffuse conflicts.

### Immigration fraud tops priority list for next bar president

Luis J. Rodriguez won't be sworn in until October, but he is already hitting the ground running on one of the key issues he will be focused on as State Bar president – preventing immigration fraud by attorneys.

### State Bar general counsel to retire



General Counsel Starr Babcock, who has served as the State Bar of California's top legal adviser for the past three years, announced that he will retire in January after a 40-year career dominated by public service to the judicial branch.

### Q&A: Legal specialization a boon for consumers

With the deadline approaching for California attorneys to register as legal specialists, the California Bar Journal speaks to Los Angeles-based bankruptcy attorney J. Scott Bovitz about the benefits of specialization.

### Ethics Byte – Web offers pearls of wisdom, but also legal tangles

Ethics expert Diane Karpman writes about some of the latest court decisions and other developments at the intersection of law and the Internet.

- [Trials Digest](#)

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- [Consult the Ethics Hotline](#)
- [State Bar's Annual Meeting slated for Oct. 10 to 13 in San Jose](#)
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September 2013

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### Calif. Supreme Court term in review: Clearing away the underbrush

Law professor J. Clark Kelso analyzed the California Supreme Court's last term and found that the court made some important corrections to earlier decisions.

### State Bar Annual Meeting set for Oct. 10 through 13 in San Jose

Attorneys interested in attending this year's Annual Meeting in San Jose will have a new incentive to do so: cost savings.

### From the president



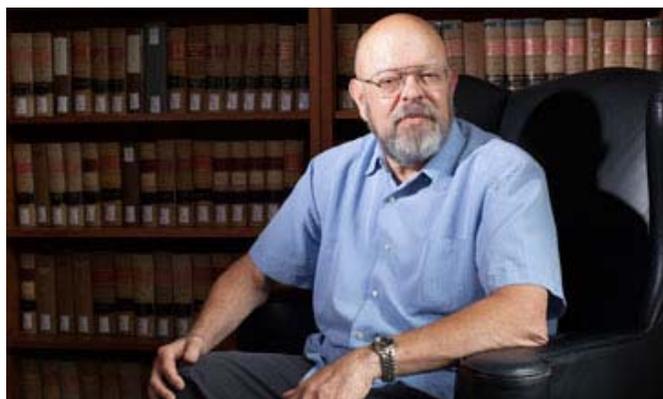
Patrick M. Kelly brings you up to date on efforts that go beyond the State Bar's traditional role but are geared toward meeting the core mission of public protection.



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Read [My connections keep endorsing me. May I keep them?](#)

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### Eclectic career marks Loren Miller award winner

Gary Blasi never went to law school. But that didn't stop him from building a resume that would make any aspiring poverty lawyer swoon.

### Court examines undocumented immigrant's bid to practice law

The high court is about to hear oral arguments on whether an undocumented immigrant may be licensed to practice law.

### Supreme Court names two to board of trustees

Miriam Krinsky and Hernán Vera, two Los-Angeles based lawyers who each have a track record of providing legal assistance to underrepresented communities, have been appointed to the State Bar Board of Trustees

### Court upholds posting of bar exam pass rates

The State Bar can require California-accredited law schools to disclose information about bar exam pass rates of their graduates, a federal judge ruled last month.

### Updated legal guide for parents now available

As students head back to school, an updated version of the State Bar's free "Kids & the Law: An A-to-Z Guide for Parents," is now available for ordering.

### Budget cuts jeopardize health of nation's courts

Budget cuts and a lack of affordable legal representation threaten to make access to justice an impossibility for the average person, a panel of sitting and retired state and federal court judges warned at the American Bar Association's annual meeting last month in San Francisco.

### Ethic Byte: Rules on privilege a moving target

Ethics expert Diane Karpman discusses the murky guidelines for what lawyers should do when third party or anonymous source deliberately sends them privileged information.

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