

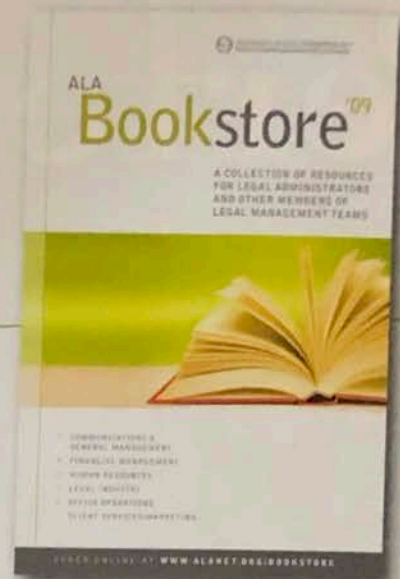
# UPFRONT

PRACTICAL NEWS & PERSPECTIVES

## BOOK CLUB

### Career Progression

Now more than ever before, it's essential that legal administrators demonstrate their strategic value to their firms. In *The Extraordinary Administrator* by Paul A.C. Malliaté, learn what it takes to be an extraordinary legal professional and to chart a successful career despite the lingering recession and its impact within legal organizations. This book was published with the support of the Foundation of the Association of Legal Administrators (FALA) in memory of former ALA President David Brezina. To purchase the book at a special low price for ALA members – or as part of a discounted book bundle along with *The Extraordinary Law Firm* by Charles E. Stinnett – visit [www.alanet.org/bookstore](http://www.alanet.org/bookstore) and click on "ALA and FALA Books."



### Family Business

#### Study Finds Attorneys, Doctors More Likely to be Working Moms

Female graduates with MBAs are more likely than doctors and lawyers to leave the workforce, according to a recent study of nearly 1,000 Harvard University undergraduate alumni.

Associate Professor Catherine Wolfram, a member of the University of California, Berkeley's Haas Economic Analysis and Policy Group, found that MBAs were more likely to be stay-at-home mothers.

In her study, "Opt-Out Patterns Across Careers: Labor Force Participation Rates Among Highly Educated Mothers," Wolfram opines that the trend is due in part to the fact that the business world is less female-friendly than the fields of medicine and law.

"Within a field, we find that women who are in family-friendly environments are more likely to stay working," said Wolfram.

Fifteen years after graduating from Harvard, 28 percent of the women studied who went on to get MBAs were stay-at-home moms, according to the study. In contrast, 79 percent of Harvard women who later obtained their JDs continued working after having children.

### BY THE NUMB3RS

About **75%** of legal departments are facing budget cuts averaging **11.5%** for 2009. An additional **15.6%** reported that their budgets would increase by smaller percentages than in prior years.

Source: The Alliance Work Force Survey on Cost, Department, and Career

### Book It

#### Sessions Focus on Court Calendaring Best Practices

**CompuLaw**  
The Court Rules Company™

CompuLaw LLC,  
which publishes  
calendar/docket

matter management software with built-in court rules databases, recently announced a series of law firm-sponsored user group meetings that are being held to educate legal professionals about court calendaring best practices.

Firms involved in the sessions include Bryan Cave LLP in Kansas City, Kansas, and Thelen Reid Brown Raysman & Steiner LLP in Washington, D.C.

Each session focuses on firm risk management considerations, as well as new features and benefits of both CompuLaw Vision, software that automatically schedules critical dates in accordance with court rules, and the CompuLaw Vision Web Portal. Virtual user groups – which can be scheduled by contacting Jodi Foreman at (800) 444-0020 or [jforman@compulaw.com](mailto:jforman@compulaw.com) – also are available for legal professionals who cannot travel to the local events.

## Did you know . . . ?

... that patent infringement case filings dropped last year by about **8%** from 2007, according to Stanford Law School's IP Litigation Clearinghouse?

Source: *The National Law Journal*

## Corporate Connections



Corporate e-discovery provider **Legal XtraNet Inc.** will incorporate technology from advanced search and text analytics provider **Content Analyst Company** into its CoreView and CoreDynamics products.

**EncoreTech Inc.**, a legal application training and support provider, plans to partner with **Profsciencē Partners**, a legal learning software solutions provider whose software offerings include UniversitySite (LMS) and employee assessment tool SkillSite.

E-discovery consulting firm **eClarix** has adopted **Nuix** eDiscovery software and will offer it to the U.S. litigation support community, law firms, and corporations.

Global business advisory firm **FTI Consulting Inc.** has finished integrating **Attenex Corporation** into its technology segment. The combined business segment, now called **FTI Technology**, includes a research and development organization, combined sales and support functions, and a global team comprising more than 600 employees.

Financial and operational consultant **Huron Consulting Group** has joined with legal consulting, technology, and outsourcing provider **UnitedLex Form Alliance** to provide legal process outsourcing services to corporate counsel and law firm clients.

Litigation services firm **Alexander Gallo Holdings LLC** has acquired **Verdict Systems**, developers of Sanction trial presentation software.



## Litigation Amps Up

### Employment, Antitrust, Product Safety Suits on the Rise

Even in today's tough economy, litigation in federal courts actually rose by 9 percent last year. Employment, antitrust, and product safety cases saw the biggest increases, according to the 2009 edition of the *Law360 Litigation Almanac*.

Antitrust litigation alone grew 27 percent, thanks to plaintiffs firms pursuing cases against chocolate makers, egg processors, and packaged ice distributors. Class action suits rose 8 percent in 2008 to a new high.

In addition, employment litigation rose 6 percent in 2008, and the number of federal environmental lawsuits filed increased for the first time since 2005.

Diminishing corporate legal budgets do not appear to have had an impact on the overall case volume in federal courts, suggesting that corporations still view litigation as important offensive and defensive tactics in their overall business strategies, according to Law360 research.

Learn more at [www.law360.com](http://www.law360.com).

**LAW360** THE NEWSWIRE FOR BUSINESS LAWYERS

2009 LITIGATION ALMANAC



## Quick Stat \_\_\_\_\_ %

The share of adult Internet users who have profiles on online social network sites has more than quadrupled in the past four years – from 8% in 2005 to **35%** today. Younger adults are much more likely to use social networks: 75% of adults ages 18 to 24 use social networks, compared to just 7 percent of adults ages 65 and older.

Source: *The Pew Internet & American Life Project's December 2008 tracking survey.*

## RAISING THE BAR

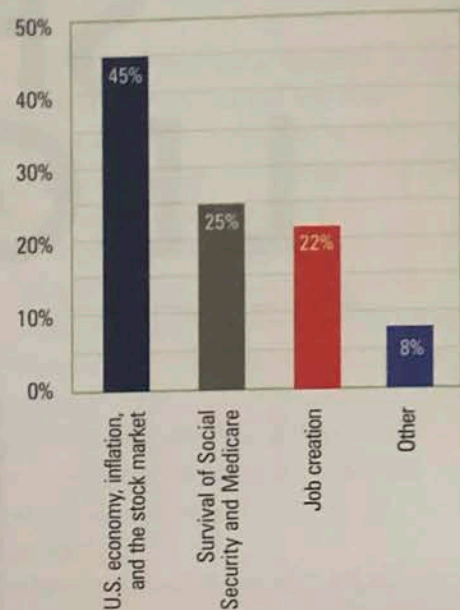
## Survey Finds Many Consumers Considering Bankruptcy to Cope

A majority of people interested in filing for bankruptcy cited the health of the U.S. economy and the survival of federal entitlement programs as top concerns, according to a recent survey by small law firm managed service provider Total Attorneys.

More than half believed they were "worse off" or "significantly worse off" financially than they were a year ago, and approximately 80 percent of respondents said one or more family members or friends had considered bankruptcy as an option within the past year.

"The struggles people are facing are very real and very difficult," said Kevin Chern, President of Total Attorneys. "In tough times, having proper and capable legal counsel to help overcome the challenges is an important option."

Survey respondents cited the following concerns (see chart) as principal factors in considering a bankruptcy filing:



## Critical Connection

### New Program Examines Link Between Diversity, Work/Life Balance

The Project for Attorney Retention (PAR) – a nonprofit that studies female attorneys' advancement and work/life issues – recently launched a program to help general counsels and managing partners examine the importance of work/life balance in diversity programs.

In the Diversity and Flexibility Connection program, general counsels will invite 12 managing partners from firms that have a demonstrated commitment to diversity and work/life issues to participate in meetings. The group will discuss topics such as shared objectives for diversity, the role work/life issues play in diversity, major issues that affect advancement by women, and how corporate counsel and law firms can best work together to achieve inclusion through flexible scheduling.

After initial discussions, the Diversity and Flexibility Connection program will produce best practices and create action steps for law departments and firms to incorporate work/life components into diversity programs. The group also will help to establish metrics to measure the plan's progress.

For more information, visit [www.pardc.com](http://www.pardc.com).

## Diversity Pays Dividends

### Gibbons Women's Initiative Gives Firm a Boost

The Women's Initiative at 230-attorney firm Gibbons PC., which recently received a 2009 Catalyst Award for its work, has helped professional women to network and mentor each other – and it's paid off for the firm financially as well.

In 2007, the initiative helped generate more than 6 percent of the firm's annual revenue. Women currently hold 21.1 percent of equity director positions at Gibbons, and the number of female directors overall increased from 13 percent in 1997 to 19 percent in 2008. During the same time frame, women of color directors increased from zero to 4.1 percent. Women also chair three of the firm's nine practice groups.

Founded in 1997, the Gibbons Women's Initiative encourages new and seasoned female attorneys within Gibbons to work with clients and colleagues to create quality educational and social programs. The collaboration improves knowledge, fosters teamwork, and promotes the role of women in business.

Gibbons, which provides transactional, litigation, and counseling services to businesses nationwide, has offices in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Learn more about the firm at [www.gibbonslaw.com](http://www.gibbonslaw.com).

## Downturn in Demand

### Outside Counsel Services to Take a Hit in 2009

Thanks to recent economic woes in the United States and elsewhere, market growth for outside counsel services in 2009 is projected to be just 1.9 percent, according to a recent BTI Consulting Group survey.

The *Premium Practices Forecast: Survey of Corporate Legal Spending* report found that after nearly five years of increases, growth in outside counsel spending slowed significantly in 2008.

To control outside counsel costs, many corporations have strategically built up their internal counsel departments with attorneys, staff, technology, and other resources. The survey also found that clients had already cut law firm rosters to new lows. On average, corporate counsel rely on 42 law firms for their legal needs, a drop from 52 in 2008.

However, not all outside counsel are doomed. According to the survey, five practice areas are positioned to enjoy stronger growth potential billing rates and premium billing opportunities in 2009: litigation, intellectual property litigation, regulatory, class actions, and bet-the-company litigation. Learn more at [www.bticonsulting.com](http://www.bticonsulting.com).

## “Over Heard”


“I think this [economic] downturn is going to set the stage for some changes [in law firms] that are going to be permanent.”

— Charles Johnson, Partner at Butler Snow in Mississippi, to the *Am Law Daily*

## David picked up his cup of coffee.

He needed to subpoena the medical records for the Kotz case so he scoured the client file for the medical office and insurance company addresses, tracked down the case information, pulled the request together, generated a fee in the billing software, and set reminders to review the records in three weeks.

## Then he took a sip.

 **PracticeMaster™**  
From the maker of Tabs3.

➤ Calendaring ➤ Conflict Search ➤ Contact Management

*It does the things you already have to do. Only faster.*

**ORDER A FREE TRIAL NOW**  
[www.PracticeMaster.com/lm](http://www.PracticeMaster.com/lm)



Law Technology News 2008 Gold Award:  
Practice Management Software (Tabs3 and PracticeMaster)