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A conference presented by the IBA Bar Issues Commission, supported by the Barcelona Bar Association

11th Annual Bar Leaders' Conference

Reception Host Bar



The Burden of Sisyphus: Bar Associations and Member Engagement

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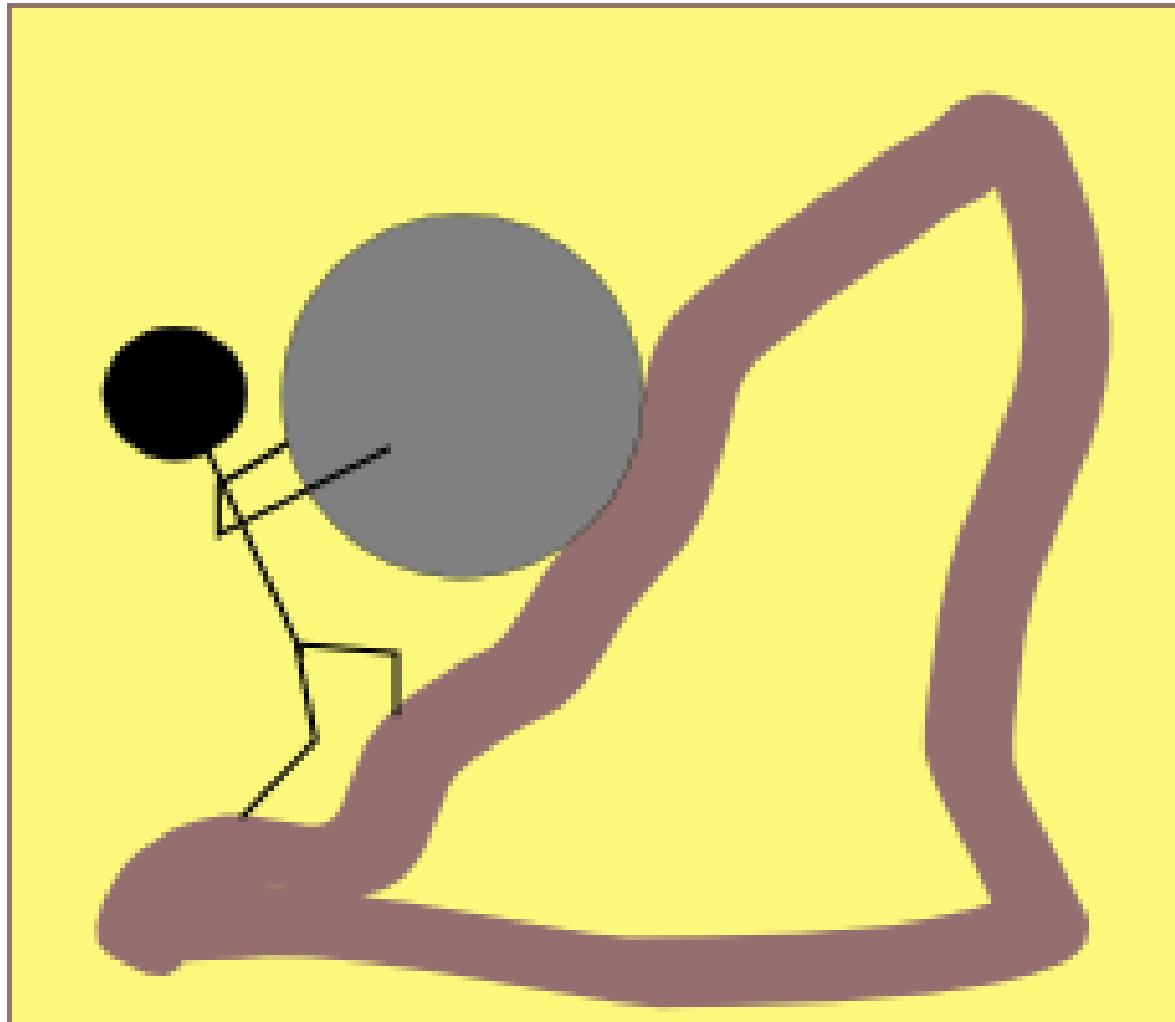
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The Metaphor



Private Practice: The Percentages

- Solo 49% 2 – 5 lawyers 14%
- 6 – 10 lawyers 6%
- 11-20 lawyers 6%
- 21 – 50 lawyers % 6%
- 51 – 100 lawyers 4%
- 101 + lawyers * 16%
- Sources: The Lawyer Statistical Report, American Bar Foundation, 1985, 1994, 2004, 2012 editions (all numbers as of 2005; ABA)

Practice Settings

- % of lawyers in...
- Private Practice 75%
- Government 8%
- Private Industry 8%
- Retired/Inactive 4%
- Judiciary 3%
- Education 1%
- Legal Aid/Public Defender 1%
- Private Association 1%

(2005; same source as above)

Bar Association Terrain

Voluntary versus mandatory:

North Dakota: first state to mandate bar membership in 1921.

Mandatory Membership:

Positive: members get benefits of bar participation, public service, pro bono

Negative: a tax on lawyers; subject to government financial issues

Voluntary Bar Associations

- Municipal: e.g., NYCBA; Princeton Bar Ass'n
- County: e.g., NY County Lawyers, Mercer Cty
- State: NYSBA, NJSBA
- National: ABA, NBA
- Specialty: Women's, Minority (Garden State, Hispanic)
- Specialty (Discipline): Health Lawyers

Levels of Membership (Unofficial)

- NJ: 90,000 lawyers admitted to practice;
18,000 members of NJSBA
- NY: 346,559 lawyers registered in NYS,
74,000 members of NYSBA
- ABA: 1,220,000 lawyers admitted; ABA
membership 417,000 (not all dues paying)

Bar Foundations

- Charitable
- Educate public
- Moot court competitions
- Programming (e.g., bullying)
- Grants

Understanding the Relationship

- Bar Association works for the lawyers, not the other way around
- ABA survey showed 60% of those leaving the association felt did not get quality
- Lawyers are volunteers
- Bar junkies
- Active versus passive members

Committees/Sections

- Networking
- Public service
- Publications
- Education
- Legislation/Policy
- Projects
- Programming

Conferences

- Inclusion versus self-indulgence
- Quality of programming
- Quality of networking
- Professionalism/camaraderie

Successes

- Legislation
- Educating the public
- Outreach to other less developed bars
- Promoting collegiality

Failures

- Pyramids
- Insiders versus outsiders
- Cost containment--not
- Excessive bureaucracy

Lawyer versus Client Interest

- Bar associations as guilds, protecting jobs
- Understanding changing technologies
- Access to justice issues: bar associations versus Chief Justices
- Lawyer mobility
- Conflicts of interest

Next Generations

- Mentoring
- “Flying Boot Camp”
- Webinars
- Beginner versus advanced
- Changing law firm management
- Inns of Court
- Effective (and ethical) social media usage
- One size does not fit all



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