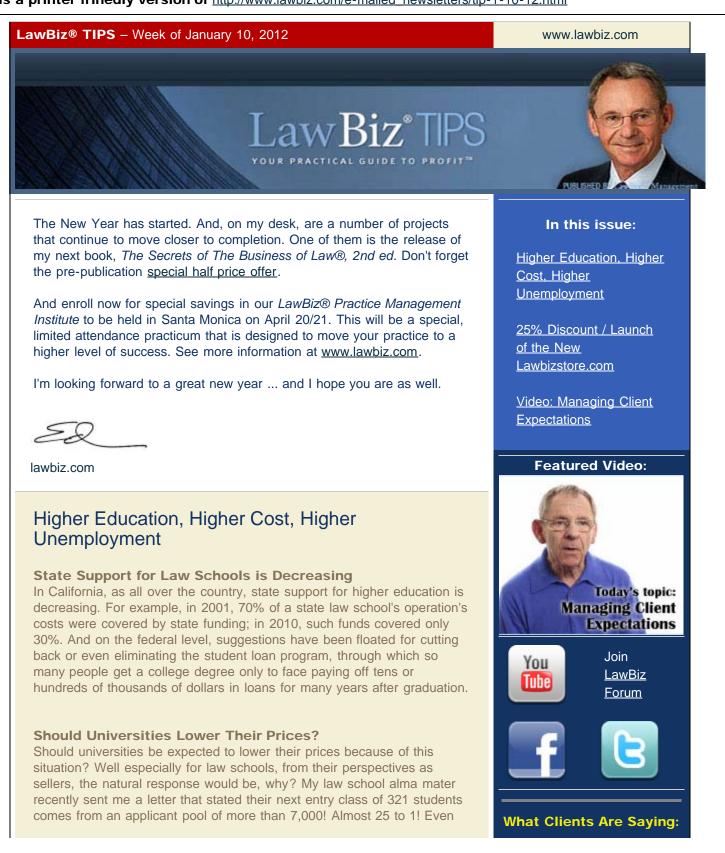


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though fall 2011 enrollment of new law school students was down a bit, it still was over 65,000 first-year students divided among 200 accredited schools. With demand like that, lower prices are not in the offing.

### **Misrepresentation of Employment Prospects**

But, with such high cost and high demand for entry, law school students and graduates increasingly ask whether the schools have an obligation to assure their employment after college. According to the <u>American Bar</u> <u>Association</u>, such students have filed suits for misrepresentation of employment prospects against New York University Law School, Thomas M. Cooley Law School (four campuses in Michigan and one in Florida), and Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Plaintiff law firms are threatening to sue up to 15 more schools for the same reason.

## **Job Placement Statistics and Law Schools**

Law School Transparency, a nonprofit group formed for "encouraging and facilitating the transparent flow of consumer information" about law schools, has claimed that with these and other lawsuits "nearly 10 percent of all ABA-approved law schools across eight states will be accused of tortiously misrepresenting job placement statistics and violating state consumer protection laws." In Congress Senators Barbara Boxer (California) and Charles Grassley Iowa) are calling on the ABA to require all law schools to better determine where their graduates go after school and what kind of employment they get. And recently, the ABA announced more stringent guidelines for law schools to offer the statistics of their graduate placement successes (and failures).

### Are You Safe in Your Law Firm Position?

All this does not mean a guarantee that you will be gainfully employed to practice law as a law school graduate. Not even senior partners are safe in their firm positions. Why should students be protected? However, the lawsuits filed and threatened bear watching as law school costs continue to rise and the means to cover them continue to shrink. The law courts may impose a discipline on law school costs that the law of supply and demand has not yet done.

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